

Algerian Berbers hold festival

ALGIERS (R) — Tens of thousands of Berber-speaking Algerians gathered Friday in Tizi Ouzou, capital of the Kabylie mountain region east of Algiers, to mark the tenth anniversary of bloody anti-government riots. Participants said Saturday a giant cultural festival was held at Tizi Ouzou University where anti-riot police brutally dispersed a demonstration 10 years ago against repression of Berber culture. The prominent Berber singer Matoub Lounes, comedian Mohammed Felling and other artists performed in what was planned as a celebration of Berber culture, organised by the Berber Cultural Movement. The Berber culture and language, native to some three million Algerians, were long repressed under an official policy since independence in 1962. Under recent moves towards multi-party democracy Berbers have founded political parties and Berber newspapers. Plans have been announced for a Berber language institute in Tizi Ouzou. The Algerian news agency APS said more than 200,000 people attended and police had to intervene to clear up traffic jams until three a.m.

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U.S. tanks due in Egypt today

CAIRO (AP) — The first batch of 700 U.S.-made M60A1 tanks will arrive in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria Sunday, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Saturday. Quoting Defence Ministry sources, the agency said the tanks were a gift from the U.S. government to Egypt and were not part of the \$1.3 billion in military aid which Cairo gets from Washington annually. The sources did not say how many would be arriving Sunday, but said the tanks would enhance the ability of the Egyptian armed forces. MENA said the tanks were shipped in from Europe.

Kuwaitis to be tried for anti-regime plot

KUWAIT (R) — Four Kuwaitis accused of plotting to overthrow the government and possessing explosives will go on trial May 12, the Kuwait News Agency reported Saturday. It said Sayyed Mohammed Baqir Al Musawi, Faisal Abdul Hadi Al Mahmood, Walid Mazidi and Abdul Hamid Abdul-Karim Al Safar were also charged with belonging to banned groups and attempting to attack the headquarters of Kuwait Airways. Muhammad Al Banai, head of Kuwait's state security court, said the four had also planned to kill public figures, a charge carrying the death penalty or life imprisonment. The agency gave no further details.

Mandela returns to birthplace

UMTATA, South Africa (R) — South African black leader Nelson Mandela returned to his tribal homeland Saturday and donned the symbols of the chieftainship which he gave up in his youth to launch a political career. "It is great to be back in the place where I was born after so many years," he said when he arrived in the semi-autonomous Transkei tribal homeland. Mandela, 71, was met by General Bantu Holomisa, military ruler of the homeland regarded by Pretoria as an independent state but not recognised by any other government. Elders of Mandela's Xhosa tribe draped an antelope skin over his shoulders and put a "knobkerrie" (wooden club) and a steel-tipped "assegai" (spear) in his hands as symbols of chieftainship. Mandela was born a hereditary chief of the Royal Tembu clan, but gave up his title 50 years ago to study law and begin his political career.

Tunisian hoteliers join push against Islamic movement

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's hotel owners have joined a campaign against the country's Islamic movement, saying its policies would do grave damage to the Tunisian economy. The Tunisian Federation of Hoteliers was reacting to a suggestion by Ali Laaridj, spokesman of the Islamic Renaissance (Renaissance) movement, that Tunisia should close hotels gradually while investing in agriculture and industry. "The effect of the Nahdha's plan would be to amputate one of the country's most active arms. The argument that tourism is vulnerable is an outdated delusion," said the statement, carried Saturday by the official news agency TAP. "Tourism survived the bombing of hotels by fundamentalists as well as the Israeli bombs on Hammam Chhatt," it added. Twelve British and Italian tourists were injured by bombs at hotels in Tunisian beach resorts in August 1987. Israeli planes bombed the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation at Hammam Chhatt in October 1985.

Cameroun frees coup plotters

YAOUNDE (R) — Cameroun Saturday said it was freeing prisoners implicated in a 1984 coup attempt which almost succeeded in overthrowing President Paul Biya. A communiqué said Biya had decided to "free all those Camerounians who were implicated in the sad events of April 6, 1984." It was not known how many of the coup plotters remained in prison. Forty-six were executed shortly after their convictions.

King returns from S. Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home from Saudi Arabia Saturday after performing the minor pilgrimage of Omra and holding talks on Arab issues and prospects for a special Arab League summit with King Fahd. An official quoted by Reuters said the two monarchs also discussed regional and international developments and possibilities of financial assistance to Jordan. Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are lobbying for an Arab summit to offset the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel. While in Saudi Arabia, King Hussein performed the Omra pilgrimage to the holy places of Mecca and Medina. In a warmly-worded cable he sent to King Fahd on his return to

Jordan King Hussein thanked the Saudi monarch for his hospitality and concern for Jordan's well being.

"I was grateful for my meeting with you to discuss affairs of mutual concern and I was overwhelmed by your keen concern over Jordan's affairs and its future, and your country's continued support and help to the Kingdom," the King said in his cable.

King Hussein was accompanied on the visit by Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, several princes, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and senior military and civil officials.



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by royal family members and senior government and Royal Court officials, Friday performs the minor pilgrimage of Omra (Petra photo)

Report warns of depletion, pollution of water

AMMAN (Petra) — A report prepared by the Higher Steering Committee working on a national environment strategy reveals that the Kingdom's meagre water resources are either excessively used up, exposed to contamination or lost through evaporation. Allowing treated waste water from Khirbet Al Samra treatment plant to flow into the Zarqa River and excessive pumping of drinking water from artesian wells in the Zarqa River basin have weakened underground water resources in the region, the report said. "In addition, the bad quality of water in the King Talal Dam, and the presence of open canals, like the East Ghor canal, exposed to various pollutants, and passing near residential areas in the Jordan Valley as well as the shortage of water

for irrigation are aspects of the present unhealthy water situation in the Kingdom," said the report.

The report said Jordan receives 6,895 million cubic metres of rain water annually, but nearly two thirds of this amount is being lost through evaporation. It said the country's 15 water basins are estimated to have a total of 755 million cubic metres of water in underground storage. The report sets forth several proposals designed to protect water resources and calls for public awareness to ensure this objective. It calls on the concerned authorities to monitor the quality of treated and saline water before allowing it to be used for irrigation, and to make full studies before setting up waste water treatment plants

Furthermore, the report urges the concerned authorities to carefully study sites which are to be allowed to serve as garbage dumps lest the dumped garbage would contaminate water resources. "There should be less pumping of artesian water and an improved method of irrigation, ensuring no loss of water through evaporation," the report said.

The report also calls public attention to the fact that pastures and soil in Jordan are being exposed to damage through improper practices. It said the present areas of forested land were barely equal to one quarter of those that existed in Jordan 100 years ago, but noted that the Afforestation Department had succeeded in expanding the forest areas to 736,000 dunams through con-

sistent planting of trees in various regions.

Much of the nearly 30,000 dunams of forested area is lost annually, mainly through fires, grazing of animals and pollution, the report said.

The report also said that the lack of a proper and effective agricultural policy in Jordan had caused the deterioration of pastures needed for grazing and for building in livestock wealth.

The report said fertilisers and waste plastic products were harming the soil and the improper use of land shrank the arable lands.

According to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughlmi, the Higher Steering Committee completed its work last November and the

general report about the environment was compiled from different reports by several sub-committees.

"The national strategy on environment, which is still to be endorsed, should cover all aspects related to air, soil and land pollution," Dughlmi said.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has agreed to provide Jordan with specialists and expertise to help it work out the national strategy for protecting the environment.

Furthermore, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has pledged to provide \$383,000 as grant, while the treasury promised JD 68,500 to finance the project.

19 wounded in Gaza and West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded 13 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip Saturday while police used tear-gas to disperse demonstrators against a Jewish settlement in Jerusalem's Old City.

Seven of the wounded were from Khan Younis town where clashes spread after an Israeli patrol surprised masked youths trying to attack an alleged Arab counterfeiter, Palestinian sources quoted by Reuters said.

Troops fired tear-gas into the town's central mosque and a curfew was imposed on Khan Younis for the third consecutive day, the sources said. Among the injured was an 82-year-old woman shot in the head with a metal ball in Gaza City and a 12-year-old boy critically injured when soldiers fired live ammunition in Khan Younis, hospital officials said.

In the West Bank soldiers and stone-throwing Palestinian demonstrators clashed in the city of Nablus and in Balata and 'Ain Beit Elma refugee camps, Palestinian sources said. Six Palestinians were wounded by rubber bullets, they said.

Eyewitnesses in the Old City said tourists visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulchre were affected by tear-gas when police dispersed a march by Palestinians against Jewish settlers.

Ten days ago 150 Jews took up residence in St. John's Hospice

near the church, Christianity's holiest shrine, in the ancient walled city.

It was the first time Jews had moved into the Christian quarter of the city since Israel occupied Arab Jerusalem in 1967.

The Jews said they leased the Greek Orthodox Church-owned complex from the original leaseholder, Armenian Martyros Matossian, with donations from private individuals.

An Israeli court ruled the site belonged to the church but the supreme court allowed the settlers to remain in the building until their appeal is ruled upon.

Israeli troops detained four Arab journalists covering clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinians in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip Friday, Palestinian sources said.

The journalists — two of them identified as Sakher Abu Alom, 26, of the U.S. television network NBC, and Kasseem Al Kafarna, 32, a representative of the WTN International network — were stopped as they tried to leave Nuseirat camp, the sources said.

Alom and Kafarna were released after being interrogated for several hours but the other two were held by the army, the sources said.

The army acknowledged that the journalists were stopped as they left the camp, but said that Alom and Kafarna were released immediately after showing their journalistic credentials.

The other two men who had no credentials were detained, an army spokesman said.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) named the two journalists held as Ahmad Al Baghdadi and Ala Al Zahrawi and said the Israelis had taken them to Ansar 3 detention camp in the desert.

Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said they both worked for Arab newspapers based in Jerusalem.

Abu Sharif, speaking as vice-president of the Prague-based international organisation of journalists, described the detentions as a grave violation of press freedom and said he was launching an international campaign for their release.

"We need all the help we can get. They've been taken to Ansar 3, which is a truly horrible place," he said.

The Israelis had confiscated film and professional equipment from Baghdadi and Zahrawi, he added.

In another development, uprising leaders in the West Bank's largest town Saturday cancelled general strike orders issued by the rebellion's highest authority in the occupied lands, reports said.

The orders for a two-day general strike Sunday and Monday were contained in the latest leaflet distributed this week by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising.

But the activists in Nablus, in a surprising move, issued their own leaflet Saturday, cancelling the strike because of "special conditions" in the city of 120,000, a Palestinian journalist said.

He said it was the first time that

Nablus leaders cancel strike orders issued by the UNLU.

Reports said the leaflet argued that the Israeli army may curfew the city in response to a general

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PLO formally calls for summit on uprising

BAGHDAD (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has formally asked the Arab League to call an emergency summit to discuss the Palestinian uprising and what it described as a Western campaign against Iraq.

Azzam Al Ahmad, PLO ambassador to Iraq, told Reuters Saturday that the organisation asked the league secretariat-general in Tunis Friday to convene a summit in Baghdad.

Ahmad said that as well as the uprising and Iraq, the meeting would discuss political moves by the PLO towards peace in the Middle East.

The PLO and Arab states have also said they want to discuss an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, fearing many will settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

After meeting in Baghdad Friday, the PLO Executive Committee said it backed Iraq in its

dispute with the United States and Britain.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, seeking support for the proposed summit, held talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid Saturday, the Algerian News Agency APS said.

APS said Arafat's talks with Benjedid covered recent Arab developments and ways to strengthen the uprising and "confront threats against the Arab Nation."

Arafat told reporters after the meeting that Benjedid had agreed in principle that an Arab summit should be held. Arafat said the summit should take place as soon as possible to confront what he said were escalating Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people.

The talks with Benjedid also covered the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel which Arafat termed a danger for Arabs and Islam, APS reported.

Iraq seeks U.S. explanation

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. charge d'affaires to explain a recent flight by a U.S. AWACS plane in Turkish airspace near the Iraqi border, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Saturday. It said Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoun asked the U.S. diplomat, whose name was not given, to give the reasons behind the presence of the plane — a flying radar station and command post — in the area earlier this month. INA did not say when the meeting took place. U.S. embassy officials were not available for comment. INA said the AWACS (airborne warning and control system) plane flew for seven hours in Turkish airspace close to the Iraqi border in the first such flight in the area. Iraqi-American relations deteriorated when Britain and the United States cooperated last month to foil what officials in London charged was a Baghdad-bound shipment of 40 U.S.-made nuclear triggers from London's Heathrow airport. Iraq said the so-called triggers were electrical capacitors used for many industrial, scientific and engineering purposes such as laser research.

Panel on national charter names officials

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The 60-member Royal Commission entrusted with drafting a national charter to guide the democratisation process in Jordan held its first meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Ahmad Obaidat and elected officials.

In a session mostly devoted to procedural issues, the commission named Suleiman Hadidi, a nationalist lawyer, and Ishaq Al Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and the Muslim Brotherhood, as the first and second assistants to Chairman Obaidat, a former prime minister.

Serving member of the Lower House and former Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri was named rapporteur.

A legal committee comprising Ibrahim Bakr, Taher Hikmat, and Mohammad Fares Tarawneh was set up to work out statutes for the commission, and it was decided that the commission will hold its second meeting May 5.

Three members who were absent from Tuesday's meeting since they were abroad: Adnan Abu Odeh, Dr. Abdullah Ensour and Yousef Al Atham.

The discussions also covered such questions as a premises for the commission's permanent office and general secretariat and sub-committees which will be formed later.

Addressing the commission, which was named by His Majesty King Hussein April 9, Obaidat reaffirmed the panel's determination to safeguard national interests through the proposed charter.

"We believe that we should arrive at a sound and balanced formula for a charter acceptable to the various sectors of the Jordanian society, away from negativism and rigidity, within a framework of common agreement that would avoid differences which will lead to failure," said Obaidat, a member of the Upper House of Parliament.

The commission, he said, "is

determined to steer safely the Jordanian people's orientations at all levels in a manner that can ensure popular participation in decision-making and safeguard and promote confidence within frameworks that can enhance the spirit of democracy and bolster the concept of the country's Constitution."

The democratisation process in Jordan has drawn various reactions at the national and external levels and led to the idea of the national charter, Obaidat said. Views over the charter and its terms of reference and its relation to the Constitution have been at the centre of public discussion lately, but this is a natural and expected development," he said.

"Today we are at the threshold of a stage which we hope will complement the democratic process, but one has to bear in mind that the national charter can by no means serve as a substitute for the Constitution," Obaidat said. "The charter should be regarded as a general framework which can offer new concepts and ideas that can help the affairs of the state in a sound manner," he added.

He said that the charter was expected to crystallise standing policies for Jordan's domestic and external affairs and set the stage for action "enabling the course of democracy to move ahead and provide protection for the country's national and pan-Arab security in a balanced manner."

The charter, he said, will open the door for various changes and developments for the better, and pave the ground for absorbing new ideas for modernisation and construction and will not serve as compromise settlement to the accumulated issues.

"The charter is a new and serious idea characterised with national commitment, providing a basis for a balance of duties and responsibilities and a guarantee for future development in Jordan," he said.

Lithuania under total blockade

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (Agencies) — A senior Lithuanian official accused the Kremlin Saturday of launching a total economic blockade of the Baltic republic to force it to scrap its declaration of independence.

"I believe the blockade has started. A total blockade, absolutely," Deputy Prime Minister Romualdas Ozolas told reporters. Ozolas, speaking after a crisis meeting with representatives of 100 Lithuanian enterprises, also accused Moscow of blocking financial transactions involving the republic's industry.

He said a message would be sent to Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov warning him that many Lithuanian factories would be unable to continue fulfilling contracts with Soviet partners because of shortages of money and supplies.

Ozolas also repeated a plea for help to the United States and Western Europe.

"If there is no support from the West, there will be nothing," he said. "If we do not get alternative supplies, we can say that our struggle is without hope."

Lithuania has shut down most of its factories Saturday to conserve fuel and raw materials in the face of the Kremlin embargo.

"The majority (of factories) are not working," said Ozolas, when asked about Saturday's work schedules in the republic. Under normal circumstances, Saturday is an average work day.

"We decided not to waste our strength while it is not necessary," Ozolas said in an interview.

Ozolas also said the neighbouring Baltic republic of Estonia was offering some aid and an agreement probably would be reached late in the day.

Moscow has cut off all oil and

most of Lithuania's natural gas supply.

Traffic on the streets of Vilnius was light Saturday as motorists grappled with a rationing plan that limits them to 30 litres of gasoline a month.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told an opening session of a congress of the pro-independence movement Sajudis, "the threat we are facing is very great."

He said Lithuania, which was forcibly annexed to the Soviet Union in 1940, was searching for a compromise with Moscow, but there were no proposals on the table.

Asked about reports that Moscow was offering to negotiate if Lithuania delayed independence for two years, Landsbergis said: "We haven't received any kind of proposal."

"We haven't debated this," he said. But, without going into detail, Landsbergis said some compromise ideas have been raised in contacts with the Kremlin through middlemen. He would not give details.

The European Community (EC) Saturday called on Moscow to lift its blockade of Lithuania and denounced the action against the republic as coercive.

The foreign ministers of the 12-nation community meeting in Dublin urged immediate talks to end the crisis. But they ignored a demand by the republic for full recognition and made no move to take action against Moscow.

"They (the community nations) believe that measures of a coercive nature can make no contribution to the search for a solution through dialogue," the foreign ministers of the 12-member community said in a joint declaration issued during the meeting.

Turkey, Greece hold pipes in Iraqi 'gun' furore

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish officials are examining a truckload of steel pipe and suspects the tubes could be used by Iraq to build a missile-launching cannon, Foreign Ministry sources said Saturday.

"There is such a truck. It has been seized and it is now being investigated," one source told Reuters.

"There are circular pipes in it. It is not yet known whether they are missiles barrels linked with Iraq but they give that impression," the source added.

Walter Somers, one of the British

companies involved in an uproar over suspected barrels for a giant "doomsday gun," reported Friday that pipes it had manufactured for Iraq were being detained on their way through Greece and Turkey.

Greece said Friday it had impounded in the port of Patras truck carrying part of a "weapons system" bound for Iraq.

The Turkish sources did not say where the truck was impounded but the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet said it was held by officials at Kapikule on the Bulgarian frontier.

The paper said officials had seized parts of a barrel able to launch missiles and chemical weapons.

Kapikule is a main entry point to Turkey for trucks going to Iraq, Iran, Syria and some other Middle Eastern countries.

The British truck driver, arrested in Greece with 29.5 tonnes of Iraqi-bound metal tubing, was formally charged Saturday.

A magistrates court Patras charged Paul Ashwell, 26, with illegal transport of weapons. His truck was impounded Thursday. An Iraqi Foreign Ministry

spokesman repeated Baghdad's denial that steel cylinders seized by British customs last week were parts for a huge gun.

"This British allegation, similar to previous allegations, is untrue, unreal and no one can believe it," said the spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency INA Friday.

Hinting that the row could lead to a trade war with the Arabs, he added: "This British behaviour will certainly be taken into consideration by the countries of the region in their future trade relations with Britain."

In the United States, Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato introduced a bill calling for economic sanctions against Iraq unless it agreed to international inspection of suspected nuclear, chemical and biological weapons plants.

President Saddam Hussein has denied that Iraq is trying to develop nuclear or biological weapons.

The Iraqi spokesman said Iraq possessed advanced long-range missiles and so did not need a huge cannon.

Efforts boosted for American hostage release in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — An influential Tehran newspaper Saturday urged freedom for all hostages in the Middle East as efforts were stepped up to achieve the promised release of an American kidnap victim in Lebanon.

The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) said Thursday it would release within 48 hours one of three American academics it holds.

But it then suspended its pledge, accusing Washington of not cooperating by refusing to send State Department Middle East expert John Kelly to Damascus as the group had demanded.

Meanwhile Israel, the closest U.S. ally in the Middle East, launched an overnight ground attack on pro-Iranian guerrillas in Lebanon, its fourth raid against radical guerrilla groups there since the first IJLP announcement of a planned hostage release.

The Israeli army said six members of the Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah were killed in the latest raid with no Israeli casualties. A Hizbollah spokesman confirmed the

guerrilla deaths but said the Israelis suffered heavy casualties. The Tehran Times newspaper, which is close to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, welcomed the IJLP promise to free an American.

It holds Robert Pollitt, 55, Jesse Turner, 42, and Alan Steen, who will be 51 Sunday. All were professors at the U.S.-affiliated Beirut University College when abducted with a colleague, Indian Mithileshwar Singh, on Jan. 24, 1987.

The IJLP released Singh on Oct. 3, 1988. "It is very desirable that Lebanese Muslim groups take the first step in releasing their hostages. Let us further hope that the goodwill trend on both sides can continue until... all other hostages are released at the earliest opportunity," the Tehran Times said.

It urged the IJLP to arrange the release of one of its captives with the U.S. Ambassador to Syria, Edward Djerjian, instead of Kelly, who returned to the United States from Europe Friday.

Seventeen Westerners are currently missing and believed held in Lebanon, although some have not been heard of since they were abducted.

Muslim groups have demanded the release of some 400 Arabs held by Israel and Shi'ite prisoners held in Kuwait after being convicted of bombing offences there.

Lebanese Muslim leaders loyal to Iran and Syria have said the IJLP captive would be freed very soon even if Kelly did not go to Damascus.

Djerjian had talks in the Syrian Foreign Ministry Friday and met Robert Pollitt's wife Feryl, who later said she was optimistic and urged Washington to make some concessions.

"My appeal to Mr. Kelly is that if this would help resolve the hostage situation, then yes I would like to see him come

here," she said.

In a move that could be linked to the hostage issue, the spiritual leader of Hizbollah Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah paid a quick visit to Damascus Thursday for talks with Syrian officials, Shi'ite sources in Beirut said.

Hizbollah is thought to be an umbrella for the hostage-takers. It has repeatedly denied any links with kidnappings.

A Western diplomat in Damascus said Syria was trying to arrange a deal in which Kelly would travel to Damascus after the hostage was released, but not before.

If the release comes through, the freed man would be the first American set at liberty in three years.

Meanwhile West German hostage Heinrich Struëbig turned 49 in captivity Saturday.

Struëbig, a relief worker with the German organisation ASME-Humanitas, was kidnapped on May 16 last year near Sidon, in South Lebanon, along with a German colleague, Thomas Kemptner, 28.

Tunisian politician leaves country after detention

TUNIS (R) — Police at Tunis airport have released opposition politician Ahmad Ibn Saleh and allowed him to leave for Geneva via Rome, his associates said Saturday.

Ibn Saleh, a former minister of economy and planning, missed his direct plane to Geneva because the police prevented him from embarking and held him for more than three hours Friday, they said.

Ibn Saleh made his first public appearance in Tunisia for 20 years Wednesday at a news conference to announce a broad anti-government front grouping the Popular Unity Movement with the Movement of Socialist Democrats and the Communist Party.

He also met Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson during the minister's official visit to Tunisia this week.

The government has refused to recognise Ibn Saleh's party, which is known by its French acronym MUP, so he cannot legally engage in political activities.

Army frees students
Meanwhile the Tunisian army has released some 300 Islamist students drafted into the force as a punishment during campus unrest in February, a student spokesman said Saturday.

Abdul Wahab Hami, a member of the executive bureau of the Tunisian General Students' Union (UGTE), told Reuters the union expected the rest of the 460 to 480 students to be free in time for next week's feast marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

He said that President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali promised student union leader Abdul Latif Mekki at a meeting last Saturday that all the students could resume their studies.

The release indicates a marked improvement in relations between the government and the Islamist students movement.

Relations deteriorated in February when students occupied university buildings and fought with police as part of a campaign to remove police from campuses and block plans to move an Islamic Law Institute to new premises.

At one stage officials said the government was thinking of dissolving the union. They accused Mekki of using student grievances to force the government's hand in its dealings with the Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement, an Islamic group seeking recognition as a political party.

Islamists bring out weekly newspaper
In a separate development Tunisia's influential Islamic movement brought out a weekly newspaper Saturday after years of wrangling with the authorities

over the movement's right to spread its ideas and take part in politics.

The newspaper Al Fajr (Dawn), edited by Hamadi Jebeli of the Nahdha Movement leadership, hit the streets more than three months late because of problems finding a printer.

The 40,000 copies, less than half the number Jebeli had wanted to print, ran out at most newsstands within an hour of arriving. One newsstand said he had sold 80 copies in half an hour.

The government has twice refused to recognise the Nahdha Movement as a political party on the grounds that the law bans parties based on religion.

The movement is probably the second political force in the country after the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union.

Its candidates, standing as independents, won 13 per cent of the popular vote in general elections last April, about four times more than any other opposition group.

In January the Interior Ministry at last gave the movement permission to publish. Ministers said the aim was to let the Islamists set out their ideas and the government would then judge if it was worthy of legal recognition.

Jebeli told Reuters Saturday he thought the first issue, a 24-page tabloid with an introductory message from exiled Islamist leader Rashid Ghannouchi, would be a pleasant surprise for the apprehensive authorities.

Ibn Ali had personally intervened to persuade the printers, Dar Al Anwar, to sign a contract with Al Fajr, he said. The managing director of the printing company was not available to comment.

Dar Al Anwar and the other large printing companies in Tunis had originally declined to take on the job, mostly on the grounds that they had too much other work.

In March Jebeli and two other Nahdha leaders held a news conference to accuse the authorities of doing everything possible to keep "Dawn" from seeing the light of day. The authorities denied they had put pressure on any printers.

An article in Al Fajr said the breakthrough came after Jebeli proposed photocopying thousands of copies, which would have been technically illegal.

Jebeli said he was disappointed that the agreement with Dar Al Anwar provided for a print run of only 30,000 to 40,000, rather than the 100,000 specified in his licence.

"Judging by the demand this morning, we could sell 10 times as many. But the Interior Ministry imposed this limit on us, saying we should start off gently," he said.

Denktash expected to win in North Cyprus election

NICOSIA (R) — Veteran Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş is expected to win a comfortable majority and backing for his hardline stance on Cyprus reunification talks in presidential elections in breakaway Northern Cyprus Sunday.

His main opponent, politician Ismail Bozkurt, 50, refuses to concede a walk-over, accusing Denktaş of running a one-man show in negotiations with Cypriot President George Vassiliou, the Greek-Cypriot leader.

But political analysts expect Denktaş, a wily 66-year-old political survivor, to win around

70 per cent of the ballots cast by just over 100,000 eligible voters from among the 160,000 Turkish Cypriots.

He garnered the same percentage in 1985 in the first presidential election in the breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus declared two years earlier and recognised only by Ankara.

Polls open at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT) and close at 6 p.m. (1500 GMT).

If none of the three candidates gets more than 50 per cent of the vote, the two front-runners will compete again the following Sunday.

The third contender, Alpay Durduran of the extreme left New Cyprus Party, is not regarded as a serious challenger to Denktaş, a lawyer who has led the Turkish-Cypriot minority since Cyprus won independence from Britain in 1960.

The ruling National Unity Party in northern Cyprus has come under fire for alleged corruption and economic mismanagement, and political analysts say it may lose its majority in parliamentary elections due on May 6.

Denktaş has distanced himself from the party and has campaigned vigorously through every

village in Northern Cyprus for backing for his uncompromising position in unity talks.

The U.N.-sponsored negotiations broke down in New York in February over Denktaş's insistence on the right of self-determination by the Turkish-Cypriots as a distinct people, and not just a minority sharing nationhood with 600,000 Greek Cypriots.

Cyprus has been divided since a 1974 Turkish invasion that followed a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling in Athens.

Israelis fear settlements could hurt immigration

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli officials seeking foreign aid to absorb hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews fear their efforts are being hurt by a burst of activity to establish new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"It can have an effect on how we are being perceived by American Jewry and world Jewry," says an official for the Jewish Agency, which hopes to raise more than \$600 million worldwide to assist the migration of Soviet Jews.

"We are concerned," said the official, who asked not to be identified because the dispute is centred on the activities of acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office.

Sinba Dinitz, head of the Jewish Agency which is responsible for moving Jews to Israel, has called a meeting next week with two directors of its settlement division representing Israel's two main political parties.

Dinitz was reported especially concerned with plans announced this week to set up a new Jewish community, Alon, only a kilometre from the existing settlement of Kfar Adumim in the occupied West Bank.

Construction has also begun on the new Jewish settlement of Dugit in the occupied Gaza Strip and leaders of the settler movement talk of plans to move building in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Critics said this week that Michael Dekel, hired by Shamir to advise on settlements after his coalition government collapsed five weeks ago, was coordinating work in the new moves.

Officials were also concerned by possible adverse publicity over 150 Jewish settlers who have

moved into the heart of Jerusalem's Old City Christian Quarter.

The settlers have challenged court orders won by the Greek Orthodox Church to evict them from the two-storey St. John's Hospice, which they occupied during Christmas festivities marking Easter week.

"Obviously any action which has a negative impact on the image of Israel will surely in the longer run have a cumulative effect on the fund-raising campaign," the Jewish Agency official told Reuters.

The Jewish Agency has set a target of raising \$200 million a year for the next three years, with 70 per cent coming from U.S. Jews, to pay for moving and settling Soviet Jews. But officials say that total will be inadequate.

Military censors ban the publication of immigration figures but Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz said Wednesday that more Soviet Jews arrived in the first 18 days of April than in all of March.

Before the reporting ban was imposed, Israeli officials had predicted at least 100,000 arrivals from the Soviet Union this year and up to 750,000 over five years.

Aides to Shamir, who retains office until a new government is formed, deny charge that hardliners in his right-wing Likud Party have taken advantage of the current political uncertainty to push through settlement plans in the occupied territories.

They say construction of Alon will merely extend an existing settlement, which does not require new approval.

Shamir's partnership with the more dovish Labour Party fell apart when he refused to enter Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Soviet Jews meet PLO officials in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation delegation met a group of Soviet Jews in Moscow and expressed concern about Jewish migration from the Soviet Union, Soviet News Agency TASS said.

The Palestinian delegation at the meeting was led by PLO Executive Committee member Abu Mazin.

The PLO representatives expressed concern over the growing Jewish migration from the Soviet Union. TASS quoted Tankred Golempolsky, editor of Moscow's newspaper Jewish Culture Herald, as saying:

But he added: "The processes of entrance and departure by

Soviet people are directly linked with democratisation in our country and the exercise of basic human rights.

"We cannot dictate to people where they should go and where they should live."

The PLO has strongly attacked the settlement of Soviet Jews in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but Golempolsky said there were only 175 former Soviet citizens in the occupied territories.

He said the meeting created hope that the Middle East conflict could be solved and he hoped contacts between the PLO and Soviet Jews would continue.

Algerian fundamentalists show unrivaled dynamism

ALGIERS (R) — Muslim fundamentalists have shown with a massive demonstration that they are the most dynamic force in Algeria's new multi-party politics. But they are far from assured of triumph in their first test at the polls.

Bearded young men marched tens of thousands strong to the presidential palace Friday, a demonstration of support and discipline that an other party, including the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), appears able to match.

Political analysts say it remains uncertain the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) will win a majority of votes in provincial and municipal elections in June that will be the first multi-party poll since independence in 1962.

FIS spokesman Abbaoui Madani put the number of marchers at three million — nearly one-eighth the Algerian population. Independent observers said that was grossly inflated and doubted the number exceeded 100,000.

Still the march dwarfed the few thousand that rallied to anti-fundamentalist protests organised at the same time by the FLN outside the Algiers.

The FIS enjoys wide support among the crisis-hit urban poor drawn to its message of social justice and convinced it is the only way to unseat the FLN, linked in the minds of many Algerians to corruption and economic failure.

It has projected a powerful image of youth in a country where three quarters of the population is under 30.

But the FIS also faces resistance from urban professionals, women's groups, barber speakers in the populous Kabylie Mountains and influential religious moderates.

An appeal to the FIS to recon-

sider its march by 82-year-old Sheikh Ahmad Sahrouni, a moderate widely respected as the father of Algerian fundamentalism, showed the broader fundamentalist movement is far from united.

In a country long open to the West many Algerians reject the strict Islamic moral code propounded by the FIS and believe it is at least indirectly to blame for recent acts of fundamentalist violence and intolerance.

The entrenched FLN apparatus, linked to local notables, may well turnout pro-government votes in many areas of the countryside.

By legalising its main fundamentalist party last August, the only North African country to do so, Algeria gambled it would be less of a threat within the electoral system than underground.

"The government's strategy is to give the FIS enough rope to

hang themselves," said one Western diplomat.

Part of this strategy, the analysts said, would be for the FIS to win a respectable number of provincial and municipal councils and thus saddle it with the thankless job of running local governments.

Entrenched in local councils, the FIS would have little effective power but enormous headaches satisfying demands for housing, water, sewers and other services in the midst of economic crisis.

That may be why the FIS marches demanded Friday that President Chadli Benjedid dissolve parliament — still the preserve of the FLN and not due for re-election until 1992.

A senior FLN official told Reuters recently that Benjedid was likely to dissolve the assembly prematurely only if the FIS secured a clear majority in local voting.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt invites Mandela to visit Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has invited South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela to visit Cairo on May 19, a cabinet minister said Saturday. Butros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, told African ambassadors in Cairo that President Hosni Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), had extended the invitation to Mandela. Ghali did not say whether Mandela had accepted the invitation. Mandela was released in February after 27 years in prison. Egypt has no diplomatic links with South Africa's white minority government. It has long supported efforts by Mandela's African National Congress to end Pretoria's apartheid system of racial segregation.

Turkey suspends mayor in border town

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has temporarily suspended from duty the mayor of the border town of Nusaybin, now under investigation for alleged separatist Kurdish propaganda. "The mayor has been suspended as a temporary precaution," Interior Ministry spokesman Ibrahim Saracoglu told Reuters Saturday. The suspension of Mayor Mahmut Yildirim follows remarks reported by Reuters on April 6 after an interview conducted in Turkish at his home in the southeastern town of Nusaybin. Nusaybin, near the Syrian border 1,070 kilometres from Ankara, was a flashpoint in March for renewed violence involving the banned Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). Saracoglu said authorities had written to Yildirim, elected mayor in March 1989, about his suspension.

Gulf ruler urges curbs on youth travel

SHARJAH (R) — The ruler of Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates, said young people should be prevented from going abroad freely because they indulged in drugs and vice. "There is a need for a law to ban youth under 18 years from travelling abroad without the company of their fathers," Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasbi said on Sharjah television on Thursday night. "Another law is needed to curb travel of those above 18 to countries where disease and vice prevail," he said, without naming which countries he meant.

Greece condemns Israel over settlers

ATHENS (R) — Greece has condemned Israel for not evicting Jewish settlers from a hospice owned by the Greek Orthodox Church in occupied Jerusalem. "We condemn the stance of Israel, which has not taken to date the appropriate steps for the removal of the settlers particularly when this sad event has taken place in occupied territory," Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras said. An Israeli judge Tuesday ordered 150 settlers to leave St. John's Hospice in Jerusalem's Old City, six days after their occupation sparked angry protests by Arabs. Greece has said the incident will not influence its decision to upgrade diplomatic relations with Israel.

Quake damages villages in Turkey

ERZURUM, Turkey (AP) — An earthquake rocked eastern Anatolia on Saturday, causing damage in some villages, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported. There were no reports of injuries. The dispatch said the quake damaged some houses in eight villages in Cayirli township. The quake, measuring 5.4 on the Richter Scale, struck at 2:30 a.m. (0030 GMT). Meanwhile, another earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter Scale shook the southern Iranian city of Kerman and surrounding areas Saturday, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the tremor was reported at 10:57 p.m. (19:27 GMT).

Ethiopian helicopter defects to N. Yemen

NAIROBI (R) — Seven Ethiopians have defected to North Yemen with a military helicopter, the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said Saturday. Three air force pilots, three engineers, and a civilian diverted their Soviet-built Mi-8 helicopter to the North Yemen port of Al Hodeida Tuesday, an EPLF spokesman said. It was on a flight from Asmara, the besieged capital of Eritrea province, to the Dahlak islands in the Red Sea, he told Reuters by telephone from London. All seven people on board have asked for political asylum in North Yemen, the rebel spokesman added.

Afghan rebels report downing plane

ISLAMABAD (R) — Guerrillas shot down a government transport plane and destroyed another at the besieged garrison town of Khost in eastern Afghanistan, killing 14 people, guerrilla sources said Saturday. The downed plane was one of five that brought more troops and ammunition for the town in Paktia province Friday. It was hit by a rocket as it was about to land at night, the sources in the north-western Pakistani town of Peshawar said. They said the other four planes landed at Khost airfield, a frequent target of the Western-backed rebels who have kept the town cut off from the rest of the country for most of their 11-year-old guerrilla war. The rebels shelled the airfield again Saturday morning, destroying a parked transport plane, the sources said.

Yelayati heads for New York

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left for New York Saturday for talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on reviving stalled peace talks with Iraq, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Velayati as saying in Tehran that he and his Iraqi counterpart, Tarek Aziz, will meet separately with Perez de Cuellar. He said Perez de Cuellar had requested the meetings in an effort to facilitate a new round of peace talks. Peace talks between Tehran and Baghdad started five days after a ceasefire on Aug. 20, 1988, halted eight years of hostilities between the two neighbours.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
18:20	Cultural programme
19:00	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:40	Varieties programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
16:50	Cartoon films
18:15	Des Chiffres et de Lettres
18:15	L'école de l'air
19:00	News in French
19:30	Aujourd'hui en France
19:45	News in Hebrew
20:00	Varieties programme
20:30	Who's the Boss?
21:10	World of Puppetry
22:00	News in English
22:20	Agatha Christie's Poirot
PRAYER TIMES	
6:31	Fajr

04:54	(Sunrise) Dahu
11:34	Dhuhr
15:12	'Asr
18:14	Maghrib
19:37	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terranova Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 625343	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	

Jordan Television	773111	Rn Al Nafous Hospital	(02)2477100
Radio Jordan	774111	AQABA:	
Water Authority	683100	Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
Jordan Electricity Authority ..	815615		
Electric Power			
Company	693681		
RJ Flight information	06-832200		
Queen Aila Intl. Airport	06-832200		

SPECIAL SERVICES

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre	813813/032
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	64428116
Akshel Maternity, J. Amn.	62444132
Khalid Maternity	642582
Madines, J. Amman	683100
Palestine, Shamsadin	664171/4
Shamsadin Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musaber Hospital	627727/79
The Islamic, Abchali	666122/77
Al-AMI, Abchali	694164/46
Indian, Al-Medjidiya	771102/3
Al-Basrah, J. Asadrah	775111/16
Army, Marfa	891611/15
Queen Aila Hospital	602240/50
Arzoo Hospital	674135

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)683323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)691701
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)980732

IBRD:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
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ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminated 1)

09:00	Jeddah (RJ)
09:10	Kuwait (RJ)
09:15	Aqaba (RJ)
09:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
10:15	Larnaca (RJ)
10:45	Calcutta (RJ)
17:20	Petra (RJ)
17:45	New York, Athens (RJ)
17:45	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
17:55	Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00	London (RJ)
19:00	Rome (add.) (RJ)
19:30	Muscat, Amman (RJ)

Vatican sends Eid Al Fitr message

AMMAN (J.T.) The Vatican has issued a message to the Muslim Nation on the eve of Eid Al Fitr which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, calling for human solidarity with those in need and those who are victims of violence and injustice.

The message, issued by the president of the Pontifical Council, called on all believers in God to remember on this occasion their brothers and sisters in distress, to display compassion and extend a helping hand to them and to uphold spiritual values.

Following is the text of the Vatican's message:

Once again Eid Al Fitr is at hand. As in previous years, the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue is happy to send prayerful greetings to you, our Muslim brothers and sisters, on this joyful occasion. May Almighty God, who has provided you with strength and faith to bear patiently the hardship of your month-long fast, reward you abundantly with his blessings.

While we rejoice with you, we think of the spirit of sacrifice and obedience which animated this long month, and which constitutes a significant testimony. In

effect, sacrifice and obedience remind us of the primacy of spiritual values such as detachment from material things, solidarity, submission to the Creator, in a world where for some there is increased prosperity, while many others are in need. In particular let us remember those brothers and sisters who, in many regions of the world, are victims of violence and injustice. Is it not right to see this suffering for what it is? As spiritual descendants of Abraham and believers in God's mercy, how can we fail to feel compassion for this suffering portion of humanity, how can we fail to show them our solidarity.

Your Ramadan fast has offered you many occasions to reflect on such situations. For us Christians the Lenten season of fasting and penance this year coincides with the month of Ramadan; so during the same period we are called our faith to open our hearts to those who suffer.

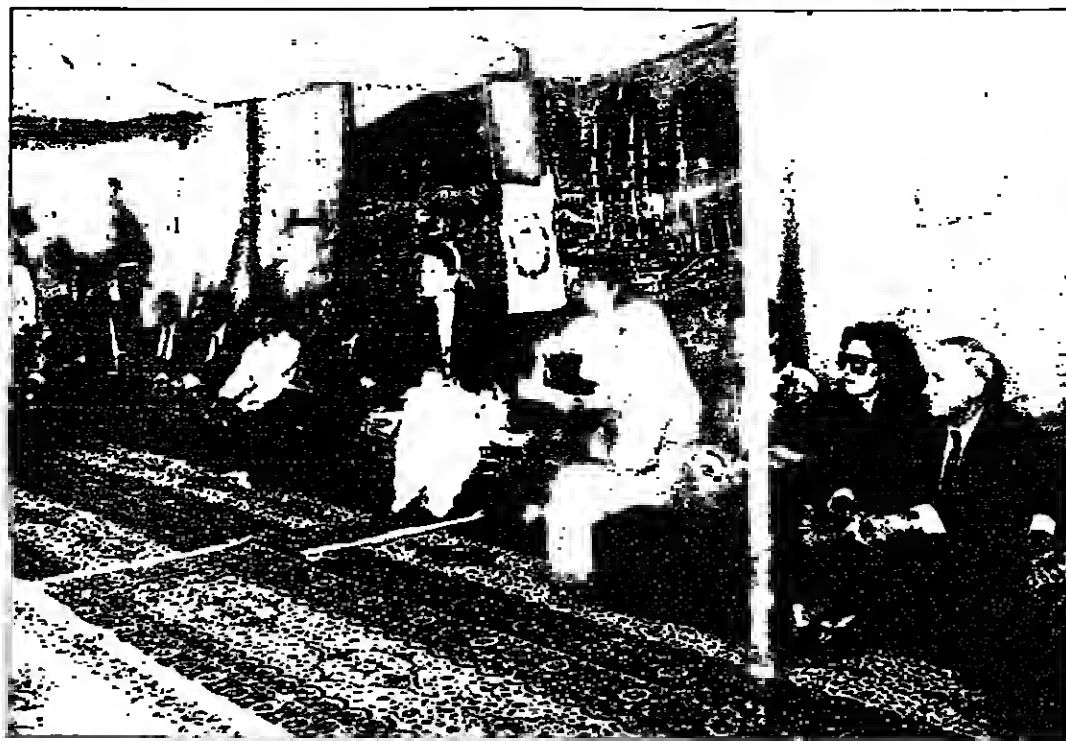
In this connection, we would like to recall the words of Pope John Paul II on behalf of Lebanon:

"How can we believers allow ourselves to remain indifferent to a whole people which is dying

before our very eyes?... The strong have a duty to come to the aid of those who are weaker... God asks every person to respect every human creature and to love him as a friend, a companion, a brother. He invites us to help him when he is wounded, when he is abandoned, when he is hungry and thirsty... This involves a duty of human solidarity which your individual conscience and your membership in the great family of believers impose on each one of you" (Appeal to all followers of Islam, 7 September 1989).

The seriousness of these thoughts, in the context of a feast, may cause surprise. Yet every religious feast invites the members of the community to come closer to God who loves all humanity. May your celebration of the breaking of the fast, like ours of Easter, inspire us to break through our personal and collective selfishness, and with the help of the Most High to express through words and deeds our solidarity with our suffering brothers and sisters.

We take this opportunity to assure you once again of our prayers and best wishes for a happy feast!



Her Majesty the Queen, Saturday attends the festivities on the eve of Earth Day (Petra photo)

Earth Day celebrations kick off today

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the eve of Earth Day celebrations and the start of an environment year in Jordan, Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Saturday inaugurated a club in Amman dedicated to the protection of nature and inspected items displayed at an exhibition organised to mark the occasion.

The organisers exhibited photographs and paintings underlining the importance of protecting the natural resources and safeguarding the environment.

The Queen also visited an exhibition organised by the students of Queen Noor Secondary School for Girls at Dabaideh, displaying plants, animals and a wing that displayed clothes, artificial flowers and laboratory equipment.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan, who was present at the ceremony, delivered a speech outlining Jordan's contributions to various regional and international activities designed to safeguard the environment.

President of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

(RSCN) Anis Muasher, which is organising Earth Day activities Sunday, said the society aims through these activities to spread awareness about the need to protect the environment, to plant trees and make Jordan green in a bid to stem the encroachment of desert over arable land.

Muasher said Wednesday evening that the RSCN is primarily oriented to protect water and agricultural land in Jordan, to safeguard the environment and ensure continued development.

He said on the Television programme "Encounter" that most of the land in Jordan is desert or semi-desert and only four per cent is arable.

"Furthermore Jordan lost 25 per cent of its arable land over the past few years because of urban development and expansion especially around Amman, Salt and Madaba," Muasher said.

Muasher also warned that further pumping of water from the Azraq oasis would lead to a catastrophe, to the Azraq basin because this practice would mix saline water with potable water. Preparations by the RSCN have

been finalised, as Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi issued a statement voicing Jordan's hope that Earth Day activities, to be observed by more than 100 countries Sunday, will lead to further international cooperation in protecting the planet Earth from danger.

In his statement issued on the eve of Earth Day, the minister said that industrialised nations are not only becoming richer at the expense of the poor nations, but are trying to dump their dangerous waste on the poor countries.

"Toxic waste acts like cancer which eats up the centre of Earth in the developing countries, leading to catastrophe," the minister pointed out.

"The Earth Day activities and the start of the environment year in Jordan Sunday could be successful if popular involvement is ensured," said Dughmi.

He expressed hope that the government would enact proper laws making the protection of the environment a national responsibility.

Circular regulates deals, loans from foreign banks

AMMAN (Petra) — The government Saturday issued a circular to various departments and ministries concerning deals with local and foreign contractors for the implementation of government-financed projects and contracts with foreign banks for loans.

The circular, which was issued by the prime minister's office, ruled that:

1- Government departments can conclude deals with contractors or importers only if costs are calculated in Jordanian dinars.

2- Departments can draw from foreign loans allocated for financing local projects only through the Central Bank of Jordan and in accordance with regulations agreed on with the creditors.

3- Deals concluded with contractors can include the corresponding exchange rate of the total cost calculated in foreign currency after consulting with the Central Bank of Jordan and before floating tenders. The exchange rate approved by the Central Bank can be quoted whenever letters of credit are opened at local banks of imports, but no direct payments can be made to the contractors.

In another circular, the Prime Ministry said no government department can contact any foreign

trade financing organisations or banks, because this is the sole task of the Ministry of Finance, except in matters concerning developmental loans which should be processed through the Ministry of Planning.

It said that all government departments public organisations and public share-holding companies should conduct all dealings pertaining to foreign loans through the Ministry of Finance which, in turn, can channel the request to the Prime Ministry after thorough discussions and consultations with the Central Bank of Jordan.

In its statement, the Prime Ministry said the new circular was prompted by the fact that a number of government institutions had been in the practice of concluding deals under which they pledged to pay part of the cost to contractors in foreign currency.

Since all deals are binding to the government which will then be forced to pay from its foreign currency reserves kept at the Central Bank, it said government departments must from now on abide by the given regulations and calculate the cost in Jordanian dinars in consultation and in cooperation with the Central Bank of Jordan.

Results of dentists vote remain a puzzle

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The results of the election of the executive committee of the Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) Saturday are more of a puzzle than a fact to analysts trying to identify political trends in the country's professional associations.

The seven seats on the committee went to union candidates, went to dentists who, according to analysts, have a good professional and union background, but are for the most part not committed adherents to the political organisations with which they are associated.

"The seven people elected were not voted in because of their past or present political associations but because they are 'good unionists' and 'good dentists'. Political, regional and religious factors may have also played a role in the election of some of them but these factors were secondary rather than primary," said one long time union member.

The seven members of the executive committee are associated with a kaleidoscope of political trends in the country although only two officially acknowledge their outright affiliation.

A total of 368 votes were cast although 562 dentists qualified to vote.

New committee members Haidam Nadiji (177), Rifait Zgoul (175) and Omran Al Kibid (151) were there candidates running as independents

and Islamists — independents.

Said Abu Maizer (170), although officially running as an independent, was affiliated to pan-Arabists and Fateh, according to observers. Fais Al Far (161), an outspoken supporter of the Jordanian chapter of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and George Haddad (136) who is considered to have affiliation with the Jordanian Communist Party, were also thought to have been elected as a result of their union records rather than their political beliefs.

Nasrallah Nasrallah (156) associated with pan-Arabist movements also won a seat on the executive committee.

The "West Bank seat" went to the candidate who was nominated by the West Bank chapter of the association Anis Al Kak who received the highest number of votes — 189.

It appeared that politics was a "side issue" in the elections although most professional association elections have been very politicised since democratic reforms began sweeping the country last November.

"I do not believe that people voted for me because I'm affiliated with the Popular Front but because they believe that I will do a good job in the union," said Fais Al Far after the results were announced.

Long time observers of the country's oldest professional association say the composition of the union's past and present executive committees is one of the most difficult to categorise politically.

"The members of the JDA



Irfan Sultan

executive committee have never been voted in on the basis of politics alone. The fact that there were no election lists, that those who are politicised are not very active politically and the importance of cooperation among the committee members has contributed to a relatively apolitical nature of the association," said a senior member of the association which was founded in 1952.

The election of Irfan Sultan as president of the association was seen as the greatest indicator of the non-politicised nature of the union. "Sultan has nothing to do with politics, but that's not why he was elected. Practically he was felt to be more professionally suitable. His opponent may be more politically appealing to the majority. Although he has no defined political line at all, his record during his last term as president did not endear him to many. Quite a number of people resigned from the executive committee during his presidency," said one long time observer while attempting to analyse the election results.

Muta University to offer evening classes

KARAK (J.T.) — The council of deans at Muta University near Karak has endorsed a set of regulations for the registration of post-graduate students and requirements for obtaining post-graduate degrees to be applied as of the beginning of the 1990-1991 academic year.

The university which now organises courses for post-graduate studies in psychology and education is considering opening the way for post-graduate students to carry out higher studies and obtain higher degrees in science, law and Arabic language, according to university

President Awad Khleifat. "Only students with 'good' level grades in their first university degree can be allowed to pursue higher studies at Muta University," said the president in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

According to the new regulations, 33 credit hours are required from each student to get the second university degree for which a thesis should be prepared and successfully accepted by the university degrees panel.

Earlier the university announced that the door was

open for undergraduate students to enrol in evening classes or morning classes which would teach English, Arabic, business administration, law, mathematics, statistics and computer science.

The evening classes will also open their doors to students at the start of the 1990-1991 academic year.

Regulations applied would be the same as for morning classes, according to the announcement. It said the evening classes would offer persons who missed university education the opportunity to acquire higher studies.

Survey finds TV programmes improved

IRBID (Petra) — A survey conducted by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Yarmouk University on the performance of Jordan Television indicated a great improvement of the new programmes and the method of presentation.

Dr. Adel Ziyadat, who supervised the survey, said that Jordan Television had shown great improvement in the first four

months of this year as compared to past years in terms of presentation of news, the nature of news items and the subsequent reports.

"This development, he said, reflected positively on the department's students who had been following up the evolution and the new trend in presenting news material and other programmes," Ziyadat said.

He said Jordan Television has

noticeably directed its attention this year towards local rather than international themes and introduced programmes like seminars and panel discussions on economic and political affairs, something which was lacking in the past.

In addition, he said, the special programmes for the dumb and deaf helped a large section of the less fortunate viewers.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

* Exhibition of Earth Day stamp collection at the Postal Savings Corporation.

LECTURE

* Lecture entitled "Marxist Ideology — self critiques" by Dr. Munir Hamarneh at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

FILM

* Feature film entitled "Hans Christian Anderson" at the American Centre — 3:00 p.m.

19 shot and wounded in Gaza, W. Bank

(Continued from page 1)

strike, making life hard for the residents who now celebrate Ramadan.

Masked activists in Nabulus also marched through the city centre and announced their decision by loudspeakers, witnesses said.

The army erected roadblocks around Jerusalem Saturday and turned back residents of the occupied lands wishing to take part in the night-long prayers marking Laylat Al Qadr.

Police beefed up security around the Al Aqsa Mosque complex in the walled Old City where the prayers are held.

Also in the Old City, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodorus I led a procession of priests to protest the Jewish settlement in the Christian Quarter.

The priests were joined by about 100 Palestinian youths, some of them masked, who raised Palestinian flags, witnesses said. Police also fired tear-gas grenades in scattered incidents in

which Palestinians hurled empty bottles and stones, witnesses reported.

Leftist Knesset (parliament) member Yossi Sarid accused the Likud-led caretaker government of trying to "establish a fait accompli" by helping the hospice settlers.

Sarid, of the Citizens Rights Movement, charged that the Ministry of Construction and Housing had financed the controversial deal.

Peace march to be held in June

AMMAN (J.T.) — "Break the wall of mistrust, fear, suspicion and hostility between the Arabs and Israel and pave the way for peaceful negotiations to settle the Middle East conflict," this is the theme of an Amman-to-Jerusalem international peace march organised by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

The organisers said in a press release that they hope the march, the first-ever such event with an expected participation of over 30,000 people, including hundreds of international celebrities and peace activists, human rights groups, churches, anti-nuclear organisations and non-governmental institutions as well as several former government leaders, will be one of the biggest media events in the Middle East in 1990.

Full details of the four-day peace march, to be held early June, will be released at a press conference at the Amman International Stadium on Monday, April 23, 1990, at 11 a.m., the same site where the peace march will begin in June.

All facilities and arrangements will be available to the media, including satellite hook-ups for television and a helicopter for aerial shooting, during the peace march, the press release said.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet approves budget, recognition of Namibia

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet, in a session held Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, approved the budget of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and approved Jordan's recognition of Namibia as an independent state.

Minister visits Yarmouk University

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Kabarti Saturday visited Yarmouk University where he was briefed by its President Ali Mahafza on the university's current programmes and future plans. The minister also visited the department of antiquities and anthropology at the university and was briefed on its establishment, development and role in conserving the national heritage and discovering antiquities in the Kingdom. The minister was accompanied in his visit by the Department of Antiquities Director Ghazi Bishah and Irbid governorate antiquities Inspector Sultan Al Shreideh.

Khayyat leaves for Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, member of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Researches — Al Al Bait Foundation — left for Baghdad Saturday to participate in religious seminars organised by the Iraqi Ministry of Awqaf.

Funds allocated for roads improvement

DEIR ABU SAID (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works and Housing has started implementing a plan aimed at improving roads in Al Koura district. Al Koura district governor Aref Abu Karaki, chairman of the district's development council, JD 260,000 were allocated for road projects in the district.

JNRCS leaves for Geneva

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Saturday left for Geneva on a two-week visit which comes at an invitation from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The delegation includes Ayed Al Kayed and Issa Ayyoub.

May Day holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed Tuesday May 1, 1990 on International Labour Day, according to an official statement issued by the Prime Ministry Saturday.

Mosque opens in Abdoun

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir Saturday opened A'isha mosque in Abdoun area. The mosque consists of two floors each with an area of 1,000 square metres and includes a quarter for women. The mosque was built at a cost of JD 400,000 collected through donations.

Seminar affirms unrest in south triggered changes

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants in a seminar on the democratic experience in Jordan affirmed that the incidents which took place in the south of Jordan in May 1989 were a national matter and expressed rejection of a political and economic system.

Among participants in the seminar, which was held Friday at the Professional Associations Complex, under the theme "The Democratic Experience in Jordan Between the Inevitability of Continuing and the Prospects of Recession" were Dr. Riyad Al Nawaiseh, Deputy Ahmad Quteish Al Azaideh, Dr. Mustapha Shuneikat and George Haddadin.

They said the political openness prevailing in the Kingdom was caused by these incidents and the decision to follow the democratic manner was irreversible.

They also affirmed that the democratisation process doesn't only mean Parliament and polls, but also active participation of the people in the national building process; they called for adopting a national salvation programme, cancelling the martial law and the freedom of forming political parties.

Dr. Riyad Al Nawaiseh said the 1989 incidents in the south are purely Jordanian and were detached from the international democratic system.

Deputy Ahmad Quteish Al Azaideh called for developing the Jordanian democratic experiment "in order to reach many of the facts."

Azaideh affirmed the commitment of Islam to Shura (consultation) which is considered an educational and ethical matter.

He asserted that democracy is a continuation of the human instinct "and that walking away from it leads to destruction." He said people can tolerate hunger but can never forgive having their freedom taken away.

Azaideh said democracy can never be perfect without the existence of political parties and newspapers in which people can express their opinion.

Commenting on the incidents in south Jordan last year, Dr. Mustapha Shuneikat said the public's demand to change the unsuccessful system was espoused with the democratic demands.

"Winds of democracy blowing all over the world and the Palestinian intifada had a significant role in inspiring the public with the values of democracy, its powerful capabilities and its ability to bring change," Shuneikat said.

Trade unions to elect members

By Isam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Federation of Jordanian Labour Union will hold a meeting Sunday to elect members to the federation's central executive bureau.

A total of 15 candidates contesting the bureau's 13 seats represent various types of workers in all fields.

The workers will first elect 95 workers to serve as members of the federation's central council, its chairman and two deputies. The council will then elect the 13 workers to serve on the executive bureau.

Two prominent workers,

Mobammad Samih and Khaled Shreim, are running for the post of council chairman while Abdul Halim Khaddam and Khalid Abu Kharoumeh are contesting the post of the council's secretary-general.

Mazen Ma'aita and Abdul Razzaq Saeed are contesting the post of deputy chairman of the council.

Federation sources said workers were of the opinion that the number of the executive bureau's members should be increased to 15.

Intensive consultations have been going on among candidates and other members over the past two weeks to choose representatives.



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Food for home

THE disclosure by the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) that the recent decrease in the quantity of vegetables and fruits in the Jordanian market and the corresponding increase in their prices are due to the rise in Jordan's exports of such produce is a two-edged sword. It will be difficult to quarrel with any policy that promotes Jordanian exports including vegetables and fruits. But such a policy, geared to earn the country much needed hard currencies, must not be at the expense of our citizens, poor before rich. It is evident that Jordanian export of vegetables and fruits is made possible first and foremost by the low cost of Jordanian labour in addition to the depreciation of the dinar. It is grave enough that the depreciation of the Jordanian dinar has contributed to unbearable inflationary rate in the Kingdom. But to keep Jordanian wages so low in order to make Jordanian production that much more competitive in the international market at a time when Jordanian vegetables and fruits are made less and less accessible to poor Jordanians is not the kind of policy that would serve our best interests. A wiser and more prudent policy would call for measures to assure the availability of at least locally-produced foodstuffs at prices that the public can afford. This more balanced economic policy is all the more urgent in the wake of unconfirmed reports that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is insisting that subsidies to basic food commodities be cut down drastically by 1991. Is it too much to ask then that Jordanian-produced foods be kept accessible to Jordanians especially to those who are already below the poverty line and at prices that they can afford?

It must be relatively simple to reconcile the economic policy that promotes exports with the more pressing policy of feeding the people of Jordan. Once the needs of the country for vegetables and fruits are quantified, all that the AMO needs to do is to prescribe a quota for all Jordanian exporters that must be earmarked for local consumption as a matter of higher priority.

The motto of the AMO and the Ministry of Agriculture should be to feed Jordanians first and second to earn foreign currencies. Otherwise the country's priorities become lopsided.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Saturday commented on Washington's current efforts to rally further support for the U.S. Congress's decision, considering Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel. The paper referred in particular to the ongoing endeavours to enlist support for this action by the municipalities of major cities in the United States, a move which is designed to show more hatred to the Arabs and to consecrate Israel's annexation. This escalation on the part of the Americans is in reality a form of hostile action and part of an aggressive plan directed against peace and should be considered by the Arabs as a further proof of the absence of Washington's credibility in the Arab region, the paper noted. This should prompt the Arab leaders to baste steps for convening an Arab summit that would help chart joint Arab action vis-a-vis the enemy's plans and continued challenge to the Arab rights and the usurpation of Arab lands in Palestine, the paper warned. It said that Washington's hostile actions in the Jerusalem question is coupled with its ongoing efforts to drum up an aggressive campaign on Iraq for acquiring weapons needed for Arab defence. It is time that Washington learnt that the Arabs are determined to achieve peace and that there was no alternative but to work in that direction, the paper concluded.

Another Arabic daily, Al Dastour called Saturday for the convening of an Arab summit meeting where consensus and agreement, it said, could be achieved for future action to protect pan-Arab interests. The paper noted that both King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat have openly welcomed such a step, and called for an end to inter-Arab differences to pave for the summit. The present pan-Arab, regional and international situations require that such summit be held as soon as possible particularly in view of the challenges posed to the nation by Israel's practices in Palestine, continued immigration and threats to Iraq, the paper said. The paper said that the arrival of more Jews in Palestine can only fuel the Zionist leaders lust for expansion at the expense of all the Arab countries and not only Jordan and Palestine. It said that an Arab summit is needed now to ensure the Arabs are united and ready to offer sacrifice in order to repel aggression and regain usurped Arab lands.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented Saturday on a statement by senator Robert Dole in the U.S. Congress two days ago following his tour of the Middle East and his talks with Arab leaders. The senator told Congress that his decision to support the annexation of Jerusalem was very harmful and was a grave blunder. The paper said that observers have considered Dole's statement as a ridicule of the U.S. political stand committed in violation of official American policy. Dole's admission that the decision was a mistake proves once again that the Zionist lobby which influences America's policies was behind the whole crisis.

Sunday Economic Pulse

Towards privatisation of housing

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

PRIVATISATION has been a political slogan that was first aired five years ago by political officials who in fact did not wholeheartedly believe in it. In order to ensure the failure of the idea, those officials chose very difficult targets for the process and left logical and easy ones, thus transforming privatisation into "mission impossible".

If there is one basic and important activity that the private sector is well equipped, able, and willing to perform, it is certainly building houses. Every family would love to build its own home in accordance with its needs and wishes either on individual basis or within cooperative building societies — provided of course

they have the money to make their own dreams come true.

Therefore, the continued existence of the Housing Corporation is a conclusive evidence that the government is still insisting on assigning the public sector all the tasks that the private sector can perform, irrespective of higher cost and mismanagement.

It is common knowledge by now that building houses by public sector corporations costs around 35 per cent more than market prices. To that we have also to add the implicit subsidy built-in in the artificially low interest rate (4.5 per cent) that ensures the life of beneficiaries at the expense of the corporation. Even after all these losses, a major part of

the housing units that were built by the Housing Corporation are still vacant. The corporation did not find interested beneficiaries due to high cost and bad workmanship.

The government takes on its shoulders huge financial and administrative burdens. It is therefore surprising that the government is assisting on building houses for families while beneficiaries knew better and are more efficient, but only lack the financing that the government can secure from sources other than the overburdened treasury.

When the Housing Corporation was founded in the late sixties, it was meant to be a specialised lending institution. It is still officially classi-

fied among the specialised lending institutions. In effect it developed as an engineering and construction outfit and in recognition of this nature was attached to the Ministry of Public Works. Apparently it is more fun to deal in tenders and in the supervision of contractors, Chinese, French and Arab, rather than lending money and dealing with limited income groups and their housing cooperative societies.

The Housing Bank was also founded to provide financing to those who wanted to build their own houses. Because of that, the Housing Bank was granted all the privileges and tax exemptions that an imaginative mind can think of. In

practice however, the Housing Bank was gradually transformed into a commercial and merchant bank, while maintaining all the privileges and tax exemptions that are no more justified.

The Urban Development Corporation was also started in order to utilise the loans of the World Bank, and to replace the slums in the backward quarters of the cities and towns by modern and healthy inexpensive housing units. It performed its duties beautifully without incurring financial losses. In fact it claims to have made some surpluses on two of its major projects. Despite that success, and perhaps because of it, it was punished and ordered

to merge with the Housing Corporation. The irony is that the measure was adopted by the government to cut cost and promote efficiency.

The government can easily and happily withdraw from housing activity as an engineering and construction activity. It should however secure the availability of bank credit to those who want to build their own houses through offering a guarantee umbrella, and perhaps by subsidising interest. In that manner the scarce funds of the government go a longer way. Every one million dinars of housing subsidy may result in the availability of 50 million dinars of bank credit to beneficiaries.

Algeria faces economic, religious, social challenges

By Francis Ghiles

THE sea port of Oran, the capital of western Algeria, has recently been much in the news. On February 11, the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Ahmad Bensouda, announced that the 7,000 private companies in the region would close down for one week. Private industry, which here employs one quarter of the labour force, was not locking out recalcitrant workers, but protesting at the desperate lack of raw materials and spare parts which is forcing many factories to work at one third of their capacity.

A few weeks earlier, thousands of Muslim fundamentalists had marched to the wali's (governor) office, demanding that the sale of alcohol be banned and brothels closed. But the easy going port, where night clubs echo into the small hours with the raw pulsating rhythm of *rai* music, (indeed every car radio and cassette shop in town seems to blare the music out) presents a serious challenge to the fundamentalists.

The revival, in mid-1980s, of *rai*, a form of music which goes back a hundred years and, like country music, expresses the joys and woes of life, is symptomatic of the desire of ordinary Algerians to enjoy a greater degree of freedom. In retrospect the popularity of *rai* was a clear forerunner of the riots of 18 months ago which effectively broke the grip of the Front de Liberation National (FLN), the party which had held a monopoly on power since independence in 1962, and opened up Algeria to a vast debate about the future shape of economic and political institutions.

The Oranais, for their part, have always enjoyed life and over the years have been assailed to show it. Their attitude stands in sharp contrast to the eastern uplands of Algeria, where dour and uncompromising attitudes are but a reflection of harsh climate, poor soil and a brutal history, particularly under the former French coloniser. The sons of the east, those in particular who hailed from within the charmed triangle which encompasses the towns of Batna, Tébessa and Setif, the self-styled "BTS boys", which include the former president, Houari Boumedienne, have yielded much power in Algeria since 1962. For more than two decades, they modelled the country they ruled in their image. That only one party, the FLN, was allowed, helped a single party system always a killjoy.

The collapse in the price of oil in 1986-88, which dramatically increased shortages of consumer and food products, fuelled the widespread resentment against the privileges of an entrenched and powerful nomenclature and helped provoke the riots which, in October 1988, changed the course of Algerian history. The outlook remains uncertain, but what is not is the sheer energy and zest for living of young Algerians, by far the most influential party in the country, by sheer weight of numbers. Two-thirds of the population of 23 million are under 21.

Fundamentalists and Berbers

Recent events in Oran come at a time when the fundamentalists, the most active of whom are gathered the banner of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), and groups arguing in favour of a wider recognition of the Berber language and culture have been quick to grasp that their influence is best wielded, not in the state apparatus, but where it counts — on the streets.

Fundamentalists have been very adept at articulating economic and social grievances and are not afraid to resort to threats and violence. The FIS leader, Mr. Abbassi Madani, denies his movement condones such acts, but presenting a face of sweetness and reason to the outside world is a well worn strategy. Women in particular, who are often the victims of aggression because they are not veiled, or because they play tennis or practise some other form of "immodest" sport, know only too well what to make of such assurances. One of the more headline FIS preachers, Mr. Ali Belhadj, is blunt — "democracy is blasphemy." The message brooks no argument.

The Berber movements appeal to a different constituency. Berber is the traditional language of North Africa and many Algerians, who have no dispute with the importance of Arabic, let alone its sacredness because it is the language of the Koran, resent the forced pace of "Arabisation" in schools and universities, let alone that the word "Arabic" should be stuck, like some cheap price tag, on every institution and building and in every FLN party stalwart's speech. Some groups whose mother tongue is Berber enjoyed access, well before independence, to a standard of education far above that of the mass of their countrymen. This is true particularly of the Kabyle Berbers, whom the coloniser favoured. Although no less good Muslims, this higher standard of education allows such people to separate religious practice and the question of everyday life and economic management more easily.

The economic challenges

Much of what happens in Algeria, in the months and years to come, will be determined by the country's economic performance. Private industrialists in the West, who account for two thirds of the textile and plastics industry output in Algeria and half the production of leather and processed food, were protesting at the wayward, and often corrupt ways of state companies which, often even now, enjoy a monopoly on imports. Supplies are increasingly erratic, both in volume and in quality. The state has, to a degree, entrusted the distribution of quotas of raw materials to the recently reopened chambers of commerce, but the result has often been less than edifying. In the textile sector, infighting among industrialists and a notoriously badly run import monopoly, Enadtec, has made the life of competent and honest entrepreneurs very difficult indeed.

Three challenges confront the authorities. The first is to absorb the "informal" economy — or that clandestine industrialisation which is not accounted for in official figures and which could be worth as much as one third of gross domestic product. Figures which reflected the real economy would provide a fairer picture of the country's GDP. If spare parts were more plentiful and more fairly distributed, the need to resort to black market currency purchased from Algerian immigrants in France, at six times the official rate of exchange, would be less. The second challenge, which this year's finance law seeks to address, is to reduce the monetary overhang and rein in credit to the economy. The third is to reform the rigid labour practices enshrined in the Statut Général du Travailleur. Such a reform will cost jobs but also open up new ones, especially for younger people.

Confidence building

The government headed by Mr. Mouloud Hamarouch, which was appointed by President

Chadli Benjedid six months ago, faces a formidable task as it seeks to build a measure of confidence, convince the population that the lies and half truths of yesterday are a thing of the past and deal firmly with open challenges to the law, especially when they are thrown down by Muslim fundamentalists. It has to battle with shortages; it has to face a National Assembly entirely composed of FLN deputies who know that they will probably be decimated at the polls; it has to mind the many whose privileges will be sharply curtailed if Algeria succeeds in negotiating so bold a U-turn.

The municipal elections, initially planned for last December, were delayed until March 1990, at the request of a number of newly legalised political parties who pleaded that they had not yet had time to organise. They have now been further delayed while the government extends financial aid to the new parties in order to ensure that they have a fairer chance to put their case to the public.

Local elections which are fair and seen to be fair will at least provide, for the first time since independence, some idea of the level of support different parties command. The jury is out and will not render its verdict for some months. Algeria's neighbours, Morocco and Tunisia, look on, at times horrified, at times fascinated, never indifferent. If Algeria succeeds, they too stand to benefit, notably when they are face to face with a European Community increasingly absorbed by recent changes in Eastern Europe. If Algeria fails, the consequences for the Maghreb do not bear contemplating — Middle East international, London.

By abducting Mexican, U.S. enforces dangerous trend

By Bernd Debusmann
Reporter

WASHINGTON — The cloak-and-dagger abduction of a Mexican drug suspect to the United States has raised fresh questions over Washington's view that it was the right to seize foreign nationals anywhere in the world.

Unidentified men seized the Mexican, Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain, in his home town of Guadalajara on April 3, bundled him into a plane and flew him to El Paso where he was handed over to agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Alvarez, a prominent gynecologist, was wanted in connection with the 1985 murder of DEA undercover agent Enrique Camarena.

U.S. officials who declined to be named said Alvarez was snatched by a team of Mexicans contracted by the DEA office in Guadalajara in return for a huge reward.

While details of the abduction remain hazy, U.S. scholars say it underlines a growing tendency by the U.S. executive branch to exercise powers of arrest outside U.S. borders.

According to legal experts, Justice Department "opinions" issued last year dramatically changed the official U.S. interpretation of the government's right to arrest foreign nationals abroad and bring them to stand trial in the United States.

"I don't know of any other country which assumes these rights," said David Cole, a law professor at Georgetown University in Washington. "If any other country did that to us we would be the first to complain vociferously."

But to recent months, the attorney general as well as the



London: Invading U.S. troops seize the notorious Maggie Thatcher, who for years has allowed the British to drive unlawfully on the left side of the road.

directors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have said U.S. authorities were entitled to go anywhere in the world and apprehend foreigners under indictment in the United States.

The Alvarez abduction was one of several cases in which drug suspects were seized outside the United States to stand trial here.

They ranged from alleged drug kingpin Ramon Mata, arrested in Honduras in 1988, to Panamanian Manuel Antonio Noriega, who surrendered after a 24,000-strong U.S. military force invaded Panama in December last year.

One of the principal reasons President George Bush gave for invading Panama — the biggest U.S. military action since Vietnam — was to arrest Noriega and bring him to trial on charges that he turned his country into a conduit for U.S.-destined cocaine.

Noriega gave himself up to U.S. forces and is now in jail in Miami awaiting trial.

Latin American diplomats say the Mexican kidnapping deepened misgivings about U.S. actions despite growing agreement that drug trafficking is an international problem that can only be solved through international cooperation.

The Alvarez case drew a sharply-worded diplomatic note from Mexico to the United States, demanding an explanation, and threatened to sour a hemispheric drug summit which opened in the Mexican resort of Ixtapa on April 19 with U.S. Attorney-General Dick Thornburgh attending.

Criticism of "unilateral measures" voiced in Ixtapa were echoed by experts on international law consulted in the United States.

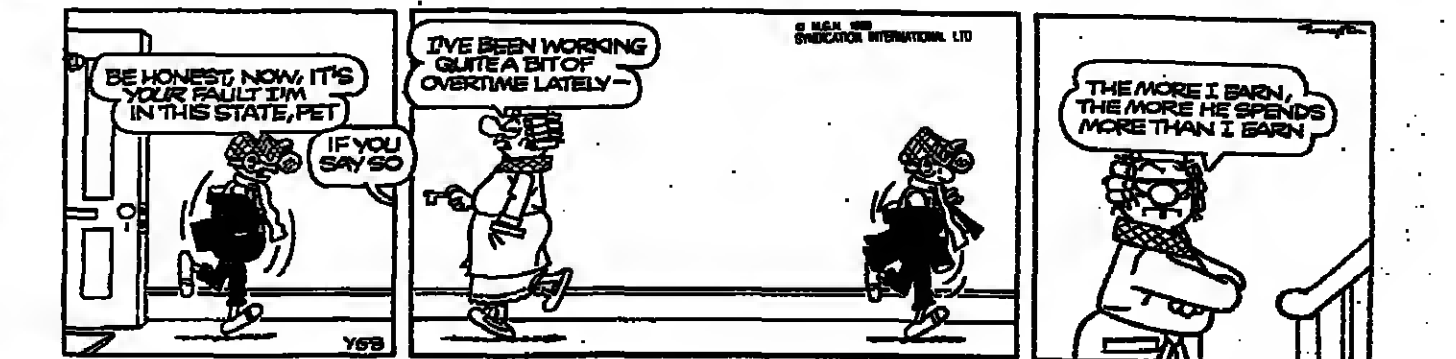
"It is quite clear that one state does not have the right to send its law enforcement officials or any other agent of the state into the territory of another (state) for the purpose of apprehending an accused without the consent of that state," said John Hargrove, executive director of the Washington-based American Society of International Law.

Hargrove said the fact that the Justice Department had expressed general approval of the principle did not make it right

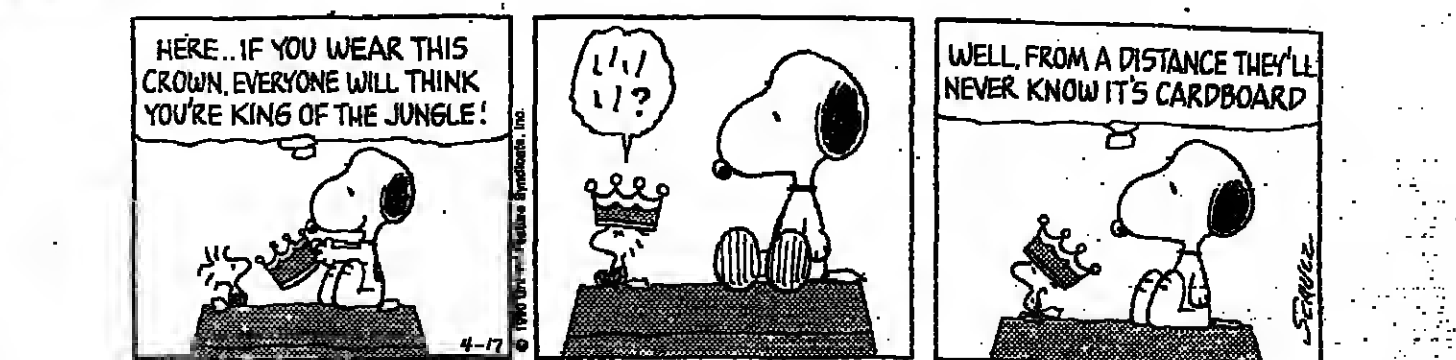
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LA SEMAINE DE ...

Suleiman Sweiss

Entre deux avrils

Quel chemin la Jordanie a-t-elle parcouru depuis un an sur le plan politique? Nous ne nous serions pas permis de nous poser la question, si avril 1989 avait été un mois comme les autres. Les Jordaniens, et particulièrement nos concitoyens du sud, en avaient décidé autrement. Pendant une semaine, émeutes et manifestations ont secoué une grande partie du royaume: Ma'an, Tafleeh, Karak, Madaba, Salt... Les slogans et les pétitions réclamaient l'annulation de la hausse des prix. Elles ont aussi exigé le départ du gouvernement Rifai et l'organisation d'élections générales.



Certaines revendications ont été satisfaites, mais l'impact de la révolte se révèle beaucoup plus profond. La démocratisation du pays, amorcée par le scrutin législatif de novembre dernier, demeure le résultat le plus important de notre "printemps politique". Sa Majesté le Roi a d'ailleurs reconnu récemment que «l'idée d'un contrat social ou d'une charte a été inspirée des événements d'avril».

De leur côté, ces «événements» ont représenté l'aboutissement d'une longue période de lutte pour la démocratie et la participation populaire à la gestion des affaires du pays. En ce sens, nous pouvons dire que la révolte d'avril 1989 n'a pas été complètement «spontanée», de même qu'elle ne s'est pas limitée à des revendications économiques.

Les Jordaniens ont le sentiment, en avril 1990, d'exercer un peu plus leur droit à la liberté. Ils ont élu leur Parlement pour la première fois depuis 22 ans. Ils ont tout autant suivi avec passion les débats entre leurs représentants et le gouvernement. Les rues d'Amman, d'Irbid et d'ailleurs ont connu des manifestations pacifiques sous la surveillance de la police. Les citoyens qui étaient privés de leur passeport ou de leur travail, en raison de leurs activités ou de leurs appartenances politiques, peuvent aujourd'hui regagner leur poste et voyager librement.

Une vaste enquête sur la corruption a par ailleurs été ouverte. Les journaux évoquent des sujets encore tabous il y a un an et les partis politiques, jadis interdits et poursuivis par les services de renseignement, exercent leur activité presque publiquement. Plusieurs secteurs socio-professionnels et sociaux, tels les enseignants, les jeunes, les étudiants ou encore les agriculteurs, qui étaient privés de toute organisation, se préparent aujourd'hui à former leurs propres syndicats. Un militant politique m'a avoué la semaine dernière que jamais il n'aurait imaginé pareille évolution il y a douze mois!

Le changement intervenu depuis avril 1989 est décidé, même grand. Même si nos difficultés économiques persistent encore. La révolte de l'année dernière avait, notons-le, conjugué les revendications économiques aux souhaits d'évolution politique. En relisant les documents, qui virent le jour à l'époque, nous pouvons d'ailleurs facilement constater l'essence démocratique de ces événements.

L'importance historique de la révolte va apparaître graduellement. A mon avis, cette dernière constitue une véritable ligne de démarcation entre, d'une part, un modèle de société où dominaient les relations patriarcales et, d'autre part, un type de société démocratique fondée sur la citoyenneté, à laquelle aspirent profondément la plupart des Jordaniens.

Sur un autre plan, les campagnes jordaniennes avaient été traitées pendant de longues années d'une manière injuste par le pouvoir central. Un délaissement, qui explique sans doute que l'étincelle des émeutes ait jailli de Ma'an et de Tafleeh. Il est enfin difficile d'imaginer comment la Jordanie pourrait entrer dans le XXI^{ème} siècle avec des structures archaïques et inadaptées aux mondes d'aujourd'hui et de demain.

Je crois que le plus grand mérite du mois d'avril 1989 réside dans le fait qu'il nous a démontré au grand jour que notre pays ne saurait se renouveler autrement que sur la base de la démocratie et du pluralisme. C'est également pourquoi nous avons de fortes raisons de croire que le processus enclenché par le «printemps jordanien» est irréversible.

Les Jordaniens et la phytothérapie

Entre indifférence et incrédulité

La phytothérapie, autrement dit les soins par les plantes, demeure presque inexistante en Jordanie. L'idée que les plantes pourraient prévenir de terribles maladies, comme le cancer, ou douloureuses, comme les rhumatismes, paraît encore exagérée incroyablement. Peu de gens attachent de l'importance à leur efficacité pour se maintenir en bonne santé. Seule, «La Maison des Plantes» à Amman offre un traitement naturel pour la beauté et la forme. Mais sa propriétaire a dû renoncer à proposer ses conseils d'herboriste. Pour cause d'indifférence générale.



Khadijeh Harizi a investi plus de 4.000 dinars dans l'achat de plantes... En pure perte.

Il y a cinq années, Khadijeh Harizi, une spécialiste de la beauté par les plantes, diplômée de l'école d'esthétique «Vogue» de Paris, où elle a étudié pendant trois ans, a ouvert une «Maison des Plantes» à Shmeisani. Elle y propose au public des traitements naturels pour la beauté et la santé de la peau et des cheveux.

L'attitude des Jordaniens n'a cependant pas répondu à son attente. Bien au contraire: «des gens ne sont pas encore prêts à accepter ce genre de médecine, explique-t-elle. Peut-être est-ce dû à l'absence totale de ce genre de science en Jordanie. Presque personne n'a en effet de connaissances solides en phytothérapie».

Cependant, nombreux sont ceux qui se disent «pour» l'utilisation des produits naturels, allant jusqu'à clamer la nécessité de cette médecine douce. Mais ils préfèrent les soins médicaux classiques, plus prompts et efficaces pour atténuer les douleurs.

«J'aimerais bien essayer les plantes, mais je n'ai pas les moyens et c'est plus facile d'aller chez le médecin que d'être obligé de subir plusieurs séances pendant deux ou trois mois chez une esthéticienne herboriste. De plus, on ne peut pas prévoir si ce genre de traitement réussira ou non», soutient Sawwan Hijawi, une étudiante de l'université de Jordanie.

De 15 à 400 dinars

Selon Khadijeh Harizi, le prix des soins par les plantes dépend des besoins de chaque client. «Il n'y a pas de prix fixe. Ça varie selon les produits utilisés. Vous avez des soins qui coûtent 100 dinars, d'autres 400». Un nettoyage de peau, cependant, coûte rarement les 15 dinars.

Les traitements, offerts par «La Maison des Plantes» durent entre un et six mois, selon la gravité de la maladie et le temps nécessaire à la soigner. Le prix, plutôt élevé, tient surtout au fait que Khadijeh Harizi importe ses produits de France, «et cela coûte très cher», avoue-t-elle.

«En Jordanie, poursuit-elle, les

gens préfèrent les médecines à effet rapide aux traitements naturels de longue durée. De fait, beaucoup de clients virtuels renoncent, faute de temps ou de patience. Ainsi de cette jeune femme, venue demander un traitement rapide contre l'acné. «Elle déformait son visage, se rappelle Khadijeh Harizi. Ce qui m'a surpris, c'est qu'elle voulait être débarrassée en quelques jours, parce qu'elle se mariait.



Une autre cliente, qui s'est adressée à moi pour le même problème, se disait prête à suivre le traitement mais sans renoncer au maquillage».

A chaque patient, le plus souvent des femmes, l'herboriste consacre en moyenne deux à trois heures par séance. «Je ne reçois le plus souvent que deux clientes par jour. C'est parfois épuisant pour moi, parce qu'il m'arrive de passer une demi-journée à soigner et à préparer en laboratoire les produits nécessaires à un seul traitement».

Quelques clientes se plaignent de l'inefficacité des soins prodigués par «La Maison des Plantes». Sa propriétaire, elle, se contente d'insister sur l'importance de leur persévérance et de leur respect des prescriptions. «Il

(suite page 6)

Des arômes pour plus d'efficacité dans le travail

Un léger parfum de productivité

Les entreprises japonaises vont bientôt disposer d'une nouvelle arme pour lutter contre le stress et accroître l'efficacité au travail de leurs employés: l'aromachologie, ou l'utilisation des arômes. Une science toute nouvelle et très prometteuse, à en croire son principal promoteur, Shiseido, numéro un nippon des cosmétiques.

L'idée de départ est simple: de même que la musique est censée adoucir les mœurs, les bonnes odeurs passent généralement pour avoir un impact positif sur le psychisme humain, les mauvaises étant combattues pour cause de répercussions néfastes.

Des chercheurs de la firme Shiseido ont commencé à se pencher sur ce banal constat il y a une dizaine d'années. Ils ont ainsi démontré scientifiquement que la lavande et la rose avaient un effet calmant, le citron et le cyprès un effet au contraire stimulant, que le jasmin se révélait un excellent anti-stress, tandis que la menthe évitait la somnolence.

Une expérience a même été menée pendant trois jours sur six femmes, travaillant sur des consoles d'ordinateurs. Les résultats ont été particulièrement concluants, selon Yasaharu Kawazoe, l'un des responsables du secteur recherche de Shiseido impliqué dans le projet. Les femmes, assurément, ont fait moins d'erreurs et

travaillé nettement plus vite, une fois exposées à un léger parfum floral. Même constat, à un degré de productivité moindre cependant, lorsqu'elles ont été placées dans un environnement aux odeurs boisées.

Un procédé similaire équipe déjà à Tokyo le siège social de la Kajima Construction Company, avec laquelle Shiseido s'est associé l'an dernier pour mettre au point l'invention et pour la commercialiser. «Nous pensons qu'il existe un grand marché», souligne Yasaharu Kawazoe, en ajoutant que qu'un premier type d'équipement «aromatique» sera mis en vente avant même la fin du mois d'avril. Les acheteurs potentiels seront, selon lui, les entreprises, les hôtels, mais aussi les centres commerciaux, où des arômes spécialement élaborés pourront «peut-être un jour» inciter les clients à acheter.

Pour l'heure, les seuls arômes utilisés par la Kajima, via le système d'air conditionné, ont un effet stimulant ou

relaxant. Une brochure, présentant le projet, envisage même un scénario plutôt alléchant pour les employeurs: circuler «pour réveiller les employés» le matin de 8h00 à 10h00, suivi d'un léger parfum floral «permettant la concentration». Le repas reste inodore. Lui succéderait une période de relaxation, favorisée par le parfum boisé, puis un retour du citron pour donner du tonus à ceux qui se laissent tenter par la sieste. Regain ensuite de parfum floral, puis, en fin d'après-midi, réinjection de citron pour redonner de la vitalité aux employés fatigués, qui s'apprêtent à prendre le métro pour rentrer chez eux.

Les recherches effectuées par le numéro un nippon des cosmétiques dans le domaine des arômes sont également à l'origine d'un «réveil aromatique» commercialisé par Seiko au prix de 72 dollars. 24 secondes avant la sonnerie, l'engin diffuse un délicat parfum à base de pin et d'eucalyptus. Mais, même dans ce secteur quasi inexploité, la concurrence se révèle d'ores et déjà rude. Kanebo, le numéro deux nippon des cosmétiques vend aujourd'hui des cravates, des chaussettes et des coussins «aromatiques». D'autres travaillent à de nouvelles inventions. (D'après agences)

EN BREF

Arafat. Le président du comité exécutif de l'OLP a effectué mardi et mercredi une visite officielle de deux jours en Jordanie. Yasser Arafat s'est notamment entretenu avec le roi Hussein. Les deux hommes ont évoqué l'immigration massive des juifs d'Europe de l'Est et d'URSS vers Israël et réaffirmé leur soutien à l'Irak. Le souverain hachémite et son hôte se sont par ailleurs prononcés «pour la tenue d'un sommet arabe à Bagdad avant la fin du mois de mai», autrement dit avant le prochain sommet soviéto-américain. Yasser Arafat a ensuite rencontré jeudi le président Saddam Hussein pendant six heures dans la capitale irakienne.

Audience. Le roi Hussein a reçu dimanche dernier une délégation du Parti communiste jordanien, «pour la première fois depuis 23 ans», a souligné mercredi Issa Mdanat, membre du bureau politique du PCJ. Seul élu communiste à la Chambre des députés, M. Mdanat a qualifié cette rencontre d'«importante». Il s'agit selon lui d'un pas significatif sur la voie de la démocratisation en cours dans le pays, qui «a rompu la glace» entre Amman et le PCJ, interdit d'activité depuis 1957, à l'instar des autres partis du royaume.

Commémoration. Une centaine de personnes ont manifesté pacifiquement mardi dans la région de Karak, à quelque 125 kilomètres au sud d'Amman, pour commémorer les émeutes contre la vie chère d'avril 1989. Les manifestants, qui scandaient des slogans de soutien au roi Hussein, ont néanmoins réaffirmé leur colère face aux augmentations de prix tout en exprimant leur refus de «toute action de déstabilisation» dans le pays. Les événements d'avril 1989 avaient éclaté à Ma'an avant de s'étendre à 13 autres villes, dont Karak, faisant 12 morts et 112 blessés.

Tourisme. Le tourisme a rapporté 270 millions de dinars, soit 400 millions de dollars, à la Jordanie en 1989, a annoncé cette semaine la banque nationale de Développement Industriel dans son rapport annuel. Le ministre du Tourisme, Abdel Karim Kabarini, avait indiqué le 21 mars dernier, que ces recettes avaient été estimées à 345 millions en 1988, «soit 16% des rentrées en devises du pays». Il avait ajouté que le royaume hachémite tenterait de «doubler ses revenus touristiques» au cours des trois années à venir.

Implantation. La firme japonaise Honda a commencé jeudi à mettre en vente ses premières voitures sur le marché israélien. Cette décision fait suite à des négociations, qui ont duré deux ans entre l'entreprise nipponne et Tel Aviv. Selon la presse israélienne, Honda refusait jusqu'à présent de s'implanter dans l'Etat hébreu par crainte d'un boycottage des pays arabes, notamment de l'Arabie Saoudite et de la Libye. Pour contourner cette menace, le constructeur japonais propose en Israël des voitures importées des Etats-Unis, où elles ont été montées.

Funérailles. Plusieurs centaines de personnes ont participé jeudi dans le «pays chrétien» libanais aux funérailles de 9 des 11 victimes du car scolaire atteint la veille par des francs-tireurs. Les cercueils, portés à bout de bras, étaient suivis par la foule, qui criait sa colère. Huit instituteurs et trois enfants, âgés de 4 à 8 ans, avaient péri mercredi brûlés vifs dans un car scolaire, dont le réservoir avait été touché par des tirs.

Visite papale. Le pape Jean-Paul II est arrivé hier en Tchécoslovaquie pour une visite officielle de deux jours à l'invitation du président Vaclav Havel. Le souverain pontife a célébré dans l'après-midi une messe à Prague. Il doit se rendre aujourd'hui en Slovaquie, bastion catholique, où plus d'un million de fidèles sont attendus sur son passage. Le pape se rendra par ailleurs en Hongrie le 16 au 20 août, a annoncé jeudi à Budapest l'épiscopat hongrois.

Nicaragua. Le Sénat américain a adopté jeudi soir à l'unanimité un amendement prévoyant le rétablissement de relations diplomatiques entre le Nicaragua et les Etats-Unis et exemptant de taxes à l'importation de nombreux produits de ce pays d'Amérique centrale. Cette décision fait suite à l'accord de cessez-le-feu signé quelques heures auparavant à Managua entre la contras et le gouvernement sandiniste. Cet accord prévoit un arrêt «effectif et définitif» des combats, qui a pris effet le 19 avril à midi.

Mitterrand-Bush. Pour la sixième fois en 14 mois, les présidents français et américain se sont rencontrés jeudi en Floride. François Mitterrand et George Bush ont exprimé leur convergence générale de vue sur l'avenir de l'Alliance atlantique, à l'issue de quatre heures d'entretiens. Les deux chefs d'Etat se sont notamment mis d'accord pour proposer à leurs partenaires de débattre au cours d'un sommet avant la fin de l'année d'une adaptation de l'OTAN aux bouleversements en cours en Europe.

Palme. Le «Financial Times» a décerné vendredi au président français François Mitterrand le titre de meilleur dirigeant monétaire, dans un éditorial soulignant les bonnes perspectives économiques de la France en ce début des années 1990. «Quelle est le dirigeant d'un grand pays, jadis prodigue, qui a été le plus disposé à accepter un taux de chômage élevé afin de débarrasser son pays du fléau de l'inflation?», interroge le quotidien américain. «Mme Thatcher est la réponse qui paraît la plus évidente, mais elle n'est pas la bonne. La palme du meilleur monétariste revient à M. Mitterrand», assure le journal des milieux d'affaires.

Eliminés. L'Olympique de Marseille ne disputera pas la finale de la coupe d'Europe des clubs champions. Les Marseillais, particulièrement malheureux, se sont inclinés mercredi en fin de partie face au Benfica de Lisbonne par 1 à 0. Les Portugais rencontreront en finale les Italiens de l'AC Milan, vainqueurs de Munich, le 23 mai à Vienne. Autre club français en compétition internationale, l'AS Monaco a été battu le même jour par Gènes 2 à 0 en coupe des coupes. Les Italiens affronteront en finale les Belges d'Anderlecht, le 9 mai à Göteborg.

Du 10 au 21 mai à Cannes

43ème Festival International du Film

«Cyrano de Bergerac», de Jean-Paul Rappeneau. «Nonville Vague», de Jean-Luc Godard, et les derniers Fellini. Tornatore, Kurosawa et Clint Eastwood figurent au menu du 43ème Festival international du Film de Cannes (sud-est de la France), qui s'ouvrira le 10 mai prochain. La sélection française comprend trois longs métrages, tous en compétition: «Cyrano», «Daddy Nostalgie», réalisé par Bertrand Tavernier et «La Captive du Désert», de Raymond Depardon.

A leurs côtés entrent dans la course officielle 16 autres films, dont le dernier Clint Eastwood «White Hunter, Black Heart», le nouveau Godard (avec Alain Delon) et les dernières œuvres de Giuseppe Tornatore («Stanno Tutti Bene»), de David Lynch («Wild at Heart») et un premier film franco-soviétique signé Pavel Lounguine («Taxi Blues»). Seul à représenter le continent africain cette année, «Tilal», d'Idrissa Quedraogo (Burkina Faso), participe également à la course à la Palme d'Or.

Hors compétition, on pourra voir «La Voce de la Luna» de Federico Fellini, «Non ou la Vaine Ginire de Commander» de Manuel de Oliveira, ou encore «Korczak» du Polonais Andrzej Wajda. L'ouverture officielle de la 43ème édition du Festival reviendra à Akira Kurosawa, avec «Akira Kurosawa's Dreams» et la clôture, le 21 mai, à Paul Schrader, réalisateur de «Comfort of Strangers».

Le jury de 10 membres sera présidé par l'italien Bernardo Bertolucci. Il comprend notamment l'actrice Fanny Ardant, ainsi que Françoise Giroud, Anjelica Huston, Bertrand Blier, Christopher Hampton et Sven Nykvist.

A noter par ailleurs que le Festival sera précédé, le 4 mai en avant-première, par la remise du premier prix «Littérature-Cinéma Carlton», destiné à récompenser un auteur du septième art. Les écrivains, précèdent les organisateurs, sont en effet trop souvent «les oubliés» des grandes productions.

Le jury, présidé par l'actrice et écrivain française Marie-France Pisier, compte 18 membres, parmi lesquels les écrivains Tahar Ben Jelloun (Maroc), Georges Conchon, Régine Deforges et Rémo Forlani.

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Les squatts à Paris

L'univers des rats... et des hommes

En trois ans, le nombre d'immeubles occupés illégalement à Paris a quintuplé. Incapables de payer des loyers

Paris, la "ville des lumières", prend parfois des allures de Calcutta-sur-Seine. Dans le 20ème arrondissement de la capitale française, l'un des plus populaires et des plus denses, des milliers d'immigrés africains disputent aux rats le droit de vivre dans des "squatts" surpeuplés et insalubres.

Selon la mairie de Paris, le nombre d'immeubles occupés illégalement dans la ville a quintuplé en trois ans, passant de 36 à la fin de 1986 à 187 en ce début d'année. Presque tous sont situés dans le nord de la capitale et abritent surtout des familles africaines, affirme les responsables municipaux.

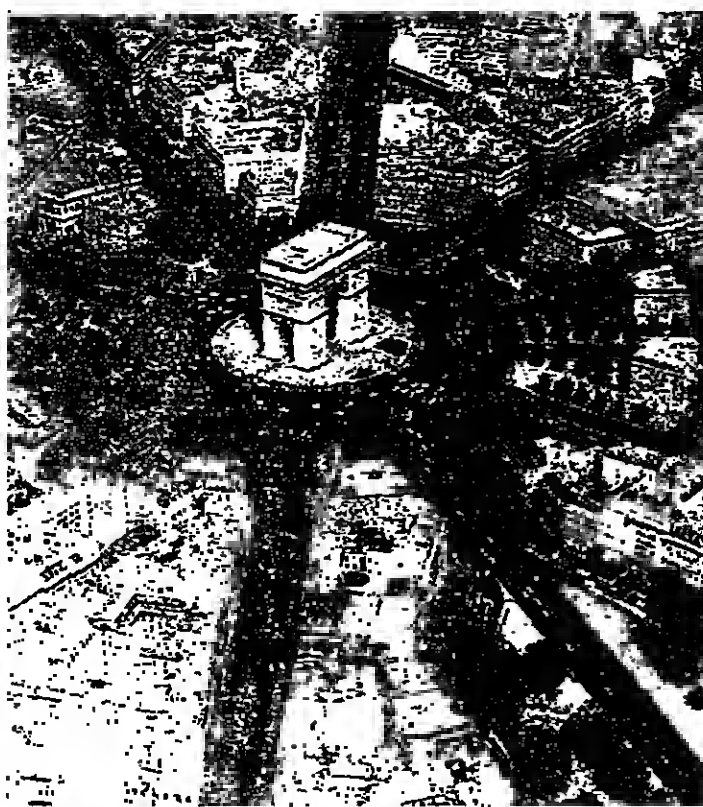
Ainsi de Mamadou, un Sénégalais de 27 ans, gagné par le désespoir. Car un bon emploi, en l'occurrence peintre en bâtiment, et la carte de séjour réglementaire qu'il accorde dans sa poche ne lui sont d'aucun secours pour trouver un appartement. «Noir et immigré, ici, je ne vis pas, je survise», dit-il tristement.

Alors Mamadou, arrivé en France en novembre 1980, las de voir les portes se fermer chaque fois qu'il se présente devant un logement à louer, a trouvé refuge dans un "squatt" avec une soixantaine de ses compagnons d'infortune, originaires du Sénégal et du Mali. Tous munis de papiers en règle, qu'ils exhibent volon-

exorbitants, de nombreux immigrés disputent aux rats des "squatts" surpeuplés et insalubres.

prétend Didier Bariani, maire du 20ème arrondissement, en faisant allusion aux 50.000 demandeurs de HLM.

M. Bariani déplore également que «la Préfecture de police de Paris refuse de recourir à la force publique», pour évacuer les squatters, dès lors que des avis d'expulsion ont été rendus. Plusieurs associations et organisations syndicales s'élèvent contre ces affirmations. Selon des responsables de la CFTD (syndicat de gauche), la sélection des dossiers pour l'attribution d'une HLM se fait souvent sur un critère racial. «C'est souvent une question de couleur de peau», soutiennent Michel Martet et



Paris, la "ville des lumières", prend parfois des allures de Calcutta-sur-Seine...

Les Jordaniens et la phytothérapie

(Suite de la page 5)

ne suffit pas de venir une fois ou deux par an. Car le traitement ne donnera évidemment pas les résultats désirés», avertit-elle.

Bayan Abdel Haq, une pharmacienne de l'université de Jordanie qui a fait trois nettoyages de peau avec les plantes, estime pour sa part obtenir de bons résultats et affirme «que ce genre de traitement est important pour la peau, parce qu'il prescrit des produits naturels. Ils sont bons même si l'on ne souffre pas de problèmes sérieux. Les plantes entretiennent la fraîcheur et le renouvellement de l'épiderme».

Même son de cloche favorable, chez une autre pharmacienne, qui a reçu un traitement à "La Maison des Plantes". «J'ai reçu des soins du visage pendant trois mois, explique-t-elle. Je voulais me débarrasser d'une acné qui me déformait le visage. Avant même la fin du traitement, j'ai vu ma peau redevenir normale. A présent, je ne souffre plus de ce problème».

La phytothérapie reste cependant une science mal aimée dans le royaume. Bien que certains Jordaniens utilisent traditionnellement les plantes pour soigner quelques maladies sans gravité. «Quelques plantes se révèlent dangereuses, si l'on ne sait pas dans quelle proportion exactes il faut les utiliser, remarque une pharmacienne. La plupart ont des propriétés spécifiques, qui aident à lutter contre de nombreux maux, à condition de respecter les prescriptions».

Le souci contre le cancer

«Une plante commune comme le souci, par exemple, semble pouvoir jouer un rôle important dans la prévention de certains cancers, d'après les études de certains scientifiques, assure Khadijeh Harizi. Il suffit de boire deux tasses par jour d'une dissolution de 20 à 30 grammes de fleur par litre d'eau».

Autre plante médicinale, la reine des rhumatismes et la migraine, tout autant que les infections des voies urinaires. On lui connaît aussi des vertus sudorifiques (qui favorisent la transpiration). «C'est une sorte d'aspirine végétale, douée de puissantes propriétés anti-inflammatoires et anti-rhumatismales», précise l'herboriste. «Il y a d'autres plantes efficaces et à portée de

main, comme le thym, l'ail, le haricot ou la carotte, mais beaucoup de gens ignorent leurs qualités», poursuit-elle.

Le thym, par exemple, peut être utilisé sous toutes les formes: en compresses, en boissons, en bains, en shampooings ou encore en dentifrices. Il se révèle efficace pour atténuer la fatigue, soigner les infections intestinales ou les troubles digestifs, alors que les baies de thym calment les douleurs rhumatismales.

L'ail figure parmi les plantes les plus communes et les plus utilisées dans la cuisine méditerranéenne. «J'avais l'habitude d'en prendre chaque matin, écrasé, avec un verre d'eau», raconte Khadijeh Harizi. En prendre régulièrement a un effet bénéfique en cas d'hypertension ou de petites infections de l'intestin ou des poumons, entre autres».

En médecine, on utilise d'ores et déjà la racine fraîche de la carotte, dont la couleur rouge provient d'un pigment appelé carotène. C'est ce carotène, qui confère à ce légume ses propriétés essentielles. Il est intéressant de l'utiliser contre les maladies de la peau, ou en cas de trouble de la vue, ou encore pour assurer une bonne croissance aux enfants. Le carotène augmente enfin la résistance de la peau aux rayons ultra-violet du soleil et facilite le bronzage.

La lavande, elle, est d'abord connue comme anti-mites. Mais elle peut aussi aider à lutter contre les effets d'une piqûre de serpent, contre les brûlures ou contre l'acné, ou encore être appliquée sur une plaie. L'alcool de lavande se révèle enfin efficace en friction pour décongestionner les voies respiratoires.

L'ortie blanche est un astringent. Elle est aussi régénérante, anti-rides et bénéfique pour la circulation du sang. «On la trouve en Jordanie, dans les champs. On peut l'employer en infusion, à raison de 25 à 40 grammes d'ortie par litre d'eau», explique Khadijeh Harizi.

De quoi faire regretter à la propriétaire de "La Maison des Plantes" l'impossibilité de pratiquer la phytothérapie à Amman et son cantonnement dans les traitements esthétiques et hygiéniques de la peau. D'autant que son rêve lui a coûté cher: «J'ai perdu plus de 4.000 dinars en important des plantes que personne n'achète. Elles sont entassées ici et sont périmées en grande partie».

Saadat Kilani.

Heure d'été

A vos montres

La Jordanie passera vendredi prochain à l'heure d'été. Le 27 avril à 00h00, il vous faudra donc avancer vos montres et révéler d'une heure. Cette mesure mettra notamment fin au décalage horaire avec la Syrie et Israël, qui sont passés à l'heure d'été le 1er avril.

A L'AFFICHE

FOCUS

Enquête

Qui sont les soldats chargés de mater l'Intifada?

L'immense majorité des observateurs, y compris la presse israélienne, en convient: plus le soulèvement palestinien se prolonge, faisant toujours preuve de vitalité et démontrant une endurance insoupçonnée, plus l'occupation israélienne se transforme en une répression systématique. Des intellectuels israéliens s'en inquiètent d'ailleurs récemment, en dénonçant le recours de plus en plus débridé à la torture par l'armée, la police et les services de renseignement.

Cette évolution, très nette dans les rangs de Tsahal, mérite qu'on s'y arrête. Pour se demander notamment qui sont les conscrits et les réservistes en charge de la "sale guerre" dans les territoires occupés. Selon l'enquête, que publie cette semaine notre confrère le "Star", le paramètre le plus important à prendre en considération est l'origine géographique des conscrits et des réservistes de l'armée israélienne.

La grande majorité des appelés, qui, à l'âge de 18 ans, doivent accomplir un service militaire de 3 années, sont des juifs orientaux, note l'hebdomadaire jordanien. Les Séfarades représentaient en effet 65% des effectifs de l'armée régulière en 1989. Ils y étaient deux fois plus nombreux que les Ashkénazes, originaires d'Europe.

Ce constat prend toute sa signification à la lumière du niveau d'éducation de la "communauté" séfarade d'Israël. Bien que les jeunes juifs orientaux forment les deux tiers de la jeunesse israélienne, guère plus de 10% d'entre eux obtiennent leur baccalauréat, nécessaire pour entrer à l'université.

Cet échec scolaire se reflète dans les rangs des réservistes, également utilisés dans les territoires occupés. Faute de qualification, au sein d'une armée qui figure parmi les plus sophistiquées du globe, les Séfarades constituent le gros de la troupe. De l'avenue même des responsables israéliens, 80% des simples soldats et seulement 30% des gradés (bas échelon) sont des juifs orientaux. Leur nombre devient négligeable parmi les officiers de haut rang.

90% des jeunes qui entrent à l'université étant des Ashkénazes, c'est parmi eux que Tsahal choisit ses cadres. C'est aussi à eux que l'armée accorde le plus de dérogations en période de rappel sous les drapeaux, leur présence s'avérant indispensable au sein de l'appareil civil.

Les seuls recrutés disponibles pour la répression de l'Intifada sont donc des soldats parfois illettrés, souvent limités intellectuellement, la plupart du temps prêts à tout. Y compris aux plus sales besognes. Leur "endoctrinement" devient d'autant plus aisé qu'ils n'ont rien à lui opposer. D'où, sans doute, le nombre élevé de Séfarades, qui, après le service militaire initial, s'engagent dans la police ou deviennent gardiens de prison.

Si cette politique de recrutement se révèle nécessaire pour les dirigeants israéliens, qui refusent toujours tout dialogue direct avec les Palestiniens, elle inquiète de nombreux autres responsables du pays. Y compris l'armée, qui fait face à des suicides de soldats de plus en plus nombreux. Le dernier en date, qui s'est produit mercredi, porte à 37 le nombre de cas enregistrés depuis un an.

A. R.

EXPOSITIONS

Mathématique en Méditerranée. Prêtée par le musée d'histoire de Marseille, l'exposition se compose de panneaux retraçant l'aventure des maths depuis les tablettes babyloniennes jusqu'au théorème de Fermat (numération, théorie des nombres, équations algébriques, géométrie, astronomie...).

Centre culturel français, jusqu'au dimanche 29 avril. Entrée libre. Tél: 634445.

Livres. L'apprentissage de l'anglais, selon les méthodes actuellement disponibles, figure parmi les thèmes de l'exposition du British Council.

British Council, jusqu'au mercredi 25 avril. L'exposition est ouverte tous les jours de 10h00 à 18h00. Entrée libre.

CONFERENCES

Petra. Le professeur Kenneth Russel présente les résultats d'une récente étude "ethno-historique" consacrée au site montagneux et à priori inhospitalier de Petra.

ACOR, mardi 24 avril à 20h00 (en anglais).

JEUX

Mots croisés

par Florence Menall

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: pour changer du noir et blanc. 2: hostile. 3: petit ruisseau; bouger. 4: tirera. 5: pas deux; repose allongé. 6: article; récolte. 7: la guerre; article. 8: infamie; rediff. 9: lie; au tennis. 10: épéliste.

Verticalement.

A: en rond. B: Organisation des Nations-Unies; raconte. C: ki. D: susceptible. E: ne pleurera pas; article. F: arbres; prénom. G: tellement; étendue d'eau. H: en dehors des lois. I: bête. J: unique; l'un des points cardinaux.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 6:

Horizontalement.

1: permanent. 2: émeute; ire. 3: Ré; robes. 4: su; élu. 5: le; rulent. 6: té; non; au. 7: lac; in. 8: ar; chienne. 9: gal; et; es. 10: écrasés.

Verticalement.

A: perlaige. B: émeute; lac. C: ré; el; h. D: murir; ex. E: avaler; ches. F: nébuleuse. G: en. H: nie. I: treuilles. J: es; jadis.

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

16h50 - "Antix et la Surprise de César" (2): dessin animé. Les aventures d'Antix et Obélix, irréductibles Gaulois.

18h00 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: jeu.

18h15 - L'Ecole des Fantômes, animée par Jacques Martin et consacrée cette semaine au troisième âge.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - As-tu vu le monde? magazine culturel.

LUNDI

17h35 - "On a retrouvé la Tani Compagnie": film. La compagnie en question avait disparu la semaine dernière.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Le Journal.

MARDI

18h15 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: jeu.

18h35 - Espace francophone: documentaire sur les pays de langue française. Cette semaine: le Cameroun.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Le Journal.

MERCREDI

18h00 - La Valise en Carton (4), on l'a trouvée: l'histoire d'un voyageur d'origine portugaise Linda de Souza.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Le Ver de Terre: documentaire.

JEUDI

18h15 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: jeu.

18h30 - La Chance aux Chansons: émission de variétés françaises, animée par Pascal Sevran.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Science à la Une: documentaire.

VENREDI

17h15 - "Les Mariés de l'An II", de Jean-Paul Rappeneau, avec Jean-Paul Belmondo et Mireille Mathieu. Les aventures d'un jeune homme, dont l'esprit frondeur lui a valu d'être expédié vers le Nouveau Monde dans les dernières années de la royauté française.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Portraits: documentaire sur les femmes dans le monde du travail.

Cette semaine: l'orange.

SAMEDI

17h30 - Champs Elysées: émission de variétés de M. Drucker. Invité: Patrick Bruel.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Des Artistes au Vert Galant: documentaire.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS?

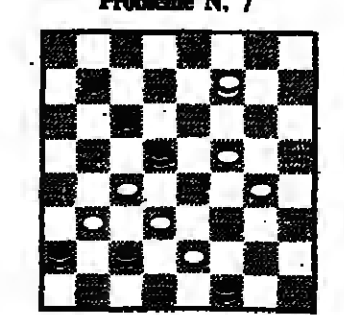
BEAUX RESTES. Le fossile d'un Ichtyosaurus, reptile marin de 180 à 190 millions d'années, a été découvert le 25 mars dans le Doubs (Est de la France). Mis à jour dans une plaque de schiste, la trace de la charmante bête, dont le poids devait atteindre une tonne, mesure 3,5 mètres.

RETRECISSEMENT. Le Soleil rétrécit plus vite qu'on le pensait, selon les études de plusieurs scientifiques de l'Académie chinoise des sciences. L'observatoire de Shanghai vient de révéler que le rayon de l'astre (0,7 million de kilomètres) avait diminué de 410 km entre 1715 et 1987, année d'éclipse ayant permis les calculs. Les chercheurs chinois n'ont donc aucune explication à cette contraction, indiquant simplement qu'elle allait sûrement modifier le climat de la Terre. Les scientifiques estiment néanmoins que le Soleil conserve assez d'énergie pour continuer à brûler pendant 5 milliards d'années.

FEUILLE D'IMPOTS. George Bush a gagné 456.780 dollars en 1989, dont 189.167 de salaire, revenus sur lesquels il a payé 101.382 dollars d'impôts. Le président américain et son épouse Barbara ont également fait don de près de 38.000 dollars à diverses œuvres de charité. Outre le salaire de président, les revenus de M. Bush proviennent notamment d'un fonds de placement géré en son nom, révèle sa feuille d'impôts.

DAMES

Problème N. 7



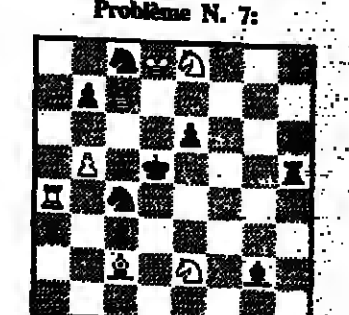
Les blancs gagnent en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 6:

B. 16-20; N. 23-16; B. 7-4; N. 16-7; B. 31-28; N. 5-14; B. 28-23; N. 27-20; B. 24-6; N. 3-10; B. 4-18.

ECHECS

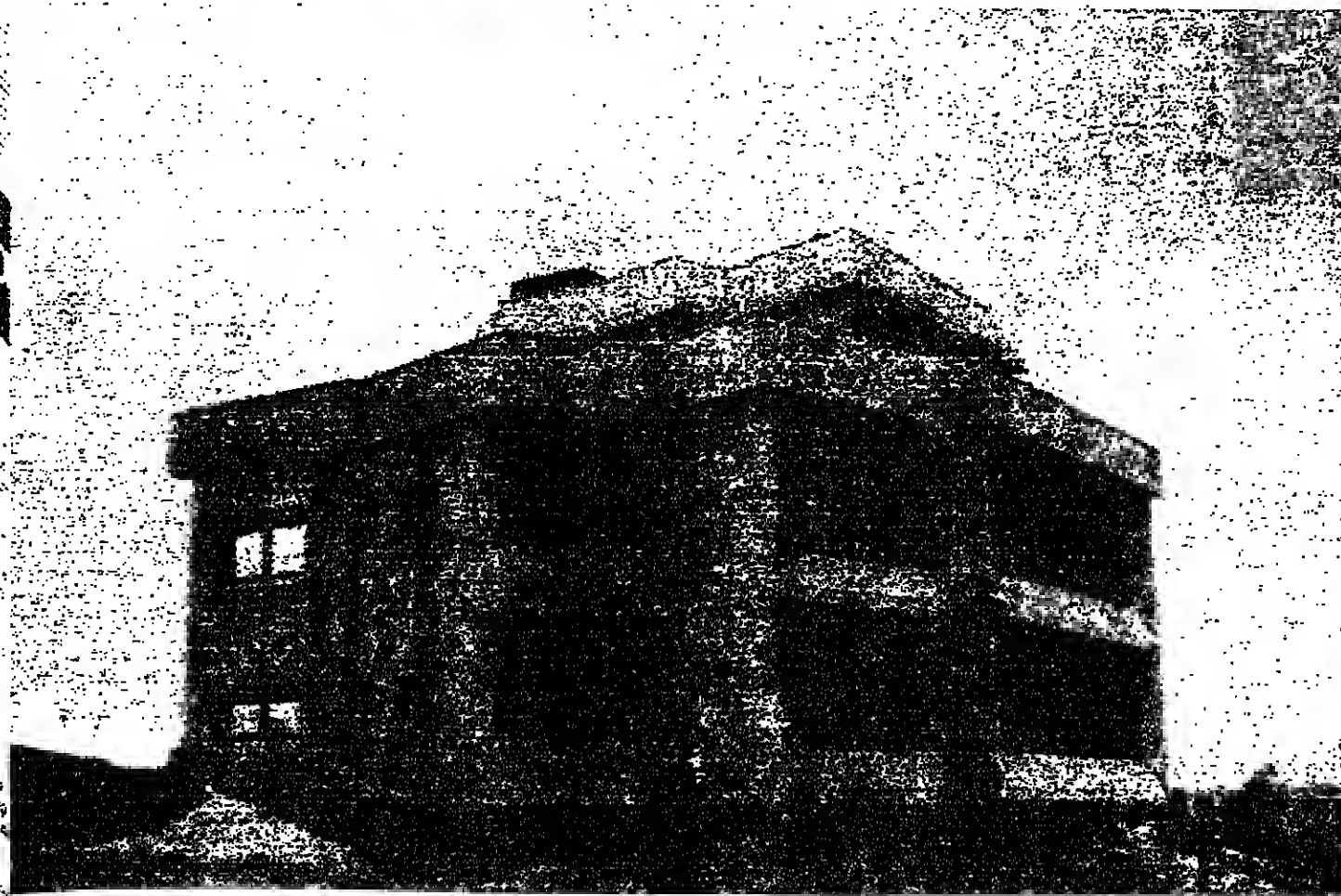
Problème N. 7:



Mit avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 6:

E2-e4.



Lucrative real estate profits and increasing pressure for housing in Jordan's urban areas have led to an alarming situation of disappearing agricultural lands, according to experts (Photos by Saeeda Kilani)

The concrete jungle — threats of a different kind

By Saeeda Kilani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Taking a walk in the streets of Jordan could be suffocating; buildings that lack all the facilities for a healthy urban life cram the streets; the slopes of Amman hills, once covered with a green blanket of plants and trees are now dotted with grey, unfinished buildings; and the bed of Zarga River is now covered with concrete and asphalt and car fumes fill the air with carbon monoxide.

With trees, flowers, plants and beautiful scenes becoming something to long for, Amman has become a place of stone and concrete structures with little space for a park or two. Those who lack the means to visit Jerash or the Jordan Valley on an outing are seen gathering under whatever trees are available in and around Amman or the few foun-

tains in the capital.

The Second Circle in Jabal Amman brims at night with people spending hours, ostensibly enjoying the "scene" of cars and buildings.

The problem has grown more of a problem of lack of spots where the public could relax after a day of hard work. It has extended to a more fundamental issue: Agricultural lands are being transformed into populated areas, to the benefit of a handful of people who exploit farmlands by converting them into commercial areas at inflated prices, according to environmentalists.

"In fact, real estate trade is more profitable than merely exploiting land for agriculture," says a wealthy landowner speaking on condition of anonymity. "To tell the truth, I made more profit in one year from renting apartments than I have gained from selling crops in five years."

The Jordanian law gives freedom to the owners to utilise lands for what they see appropriate. According to a study carried out by Professor Subhi Qasem and published in a book entitled "The Agricultural Sector of Jordan and Systems Studies," the law decrees that every person who has land registered in his name has the right to sell, rent, mortgage, lend, cultivate, to benefit from anything that grows in it without work; to cut or plant with any tree; to cultivate land with any crop for his benefit; to take down or construct a house, a store, a factory or any other building he needs for farming and to use its soil for brick making or sell what is in it of soil or rocks.

Elias Salameh, director of water studies and research at the University of Jordan, raises concern that the exploitation of agricultural lands may cause an enormous increase of dependence on

PEOPLE seem to have a tendency to forget that current problems of malnutrition, pollution and lack of natural scenery are but the outcomes of inappropriate use of their own lands. Yet, lack of environmental awareness among the public and the deficiency of previous planning seem to call on the competent authorities along with the public to envisage dangers that threaten our future.

imported food, which he expects to rise from 60 per cent at present to 80 per cent in the year 2000. Migration from the rural areas

to urban regions, where more facilities and means of living are available than in the countryside, has increased pressure on the

cities to build more housing units. At the same time, horizontal expansion is the rule of the day, according to Salameh. "It means that people tend to build villas or buildings of three storeys or less, leaving little space for planting trees or for agricultural lands and depriving the land of subterranean waters," he explains. "Perhaps this is due to the people's tendency to privacy and individuality. They prefer to live alone rather than sharing a building with others."

Division of inherited land among several heirs is seen as another factor in limiting the development of agricultural land in the Kingdom. Qasem, a University of Jordan professor, says in his study that fragmentation of land has had a negative impact because the size of most landholdings in rain-fed areas do not constitute economic units of production which can support the

average farmer and his family.

What compound the problem is the increasing demand for housing units due to the natural increase in population is the rising price of land, encouraging farmland owners to look for better profits than in farming. "They tend to view land as a commodity for speculation rather than for production," Qasem says. There is also increased public pressure on both the government and municipal councils to expand city and town limits so that more agricultural land can be included within them, his study notes.

Thus, there seems to be no way but to seek an end to horizontal expansion and to limit land use for commercial or residential purposes, according to Salameh. He points out that there appears to be no previous planning to define the agricultural, residential and industrial areas.

The Royal Society for the Con-

servation of Nature has taken effective steps in making it possible to spread environmental education among the public and among students in particular. The creation of protection of nature clubs in schools has given the chance for the new generation to understand the difficulties and dangers facing Jordan from irresponsible consumption of natural resources and indifference to the basic needs of nature in the past decade.

Officials at the society affirmed the role of education in providing students with experience in methods of protecting and better utilisation of natural resources. "We have already opened more than 100 clubs in different schools, with more than 20 students as members at each," said an official of the society. "There seems to be a positive response among students, especially among girls."

Crumbling communism brings relaxed rules for allied forces

By George Boehmer
The Associated Press

WEST BERLIN — What do you do with an obsolete border guardhouse? "Turn it into a tourist office," says a veteran U.S. army sergeant who mans the Checkpoint Charlie border crossing at the Berlin Wall.

The checkpoint is rapidly becoming obsolete as communism crumbles in East Germany. Up to 30,000 people cross through the point every day from East to West and vice versa.

Now battered by souvenir seekers, the wall was opened by East Germany last Nov. 9 after the hardline Communist government was ousted.

The post-war four power agreement dividing Berlin into U.S., British and French sectors in the West and a Soviet sector in the East is still in effect, but Berlin remains on the cutting edge of changes sweeping Eastern Europe.

For Western allied forces, those changes range from cancell-

U.S. patrols regularly drove along the western side of the barrier to monitor East German guards and possible Soviet troop movements.

"There are no more patrols. We're armed as military police, but about all we do is give out tourist information and advise people on visiting East Berlin," Brown said.

"I'm thinking of putting in a work order to have a sign made up, 'Checkpoint Charlie tourist information office,'" he said with a laugh, as yet another U.S. soldier walked up to him for advice on visiting the East.

Soldiers once had to sign a log at the checkpoint to visit the East. That was all changed last week, when military officials said all allied troops based in West Berlin could visit the East without wearing their uniforms, Brown said.

NATO troops stationed outside Berlin in West Germany still must wear uniforms when visiting East Berlin. Officials explain the rule by saying they want to main-

tain the special status of Berlin-based troops under the four power agreement that divided Germany in 1945.

The allied checkpoint is manned jointly by U.S., British and French troops. The United States has about 6,000 troops in West Berlin, the British 4,000, and the French about 2,500.

The Soviets have about 350,000 troops based in East Germany, most of them stationed at sites surrounding Berlin, West Berlin city officials say.

Janet Bent, stationed in West Berlin since last July, said that being allowed to wear civilian clothes was important for her personally.

"From my standpoint as a female in uniform, which the Soviets and East Germans don't see very often, I got a lot of stares. With civilian clothes it's more comfortable," the air force officer said.

She recently crossed into East Berlin in uniform, "and an East German guard smiled and saluted me."

Anthony Saritti, a spokesman at the U.S. mission in West Berlin, agrees that moving around Berlin is easier now. "But our mission is the same. Things are just a bit more relaxed."

Other changes at the wall include the opening of three additional checkpoints, manned by East German guards through which Berlin-based troops may pass. East Germany also has dropped certain curfews for Western troops.

"Before, West Berlin troops had to be back here by midnight. Now they can stay for a weekend in East Berlin if they want," Brown said.

At Checkpoint Charlie and other crossings, dozens of peddlers with tables have set up thriving businesses selling chunks of the Berlin Wall, much of it made into jewellery ranging in price from 5 to 40 marks (\$2.95 to \$23.50). They also sell Soviet, East German and Western military items including jackets, helmets and bats.

The tables are set up on what is technically East German territory, next to the west side of what's left of the wall.

Checkpoint Charlie stands at the end of a two-way street, Friedrichstrasse, that leads to East German border installations. Just before the border line crossing into East Germany stands a narrow guardhouse in the middle of the street sheltering allied troops. A large sign gives the name of the checkpoint, and another sign in German, English and Russian advises those crossing through that they are leaving the U.S. sector.

The wall is breached at the checkpoint by the width of the street, about 25 metres.

After the border line, the street spreads into several lanes for incoming and outgoing traffic and a separate lane for pedestrians. There are several East German border posts inside, where passports are checked.

Of the cancelled military parade, a spokesman for West Berlin Mayor Walter Momper said the annual event "no longer fits in the current situation with the wall open and military reduction talks."

The parade was first held June 17, 1964, on the anniversary of the 1953 workers uprising in East Germany, to show the West's resolve to defend Berlin after the Communists began constructing the wall in August 1963.



The sound-present sound — an immense wealth difficult to preserve (Photo: Gaillard)

The heritage of sound

By Jacques Bandeneau

SOUND Archives also belong to the cultural heritage. Since 1938, the National Sound Library (the "Phonothèque" and Audiovisual Department of the Bibliothèque Nationale) has been receiving and preserving the legally compulsory deposit of recordings. It has more than a million records and tapes. It also collects recordings of sound, the oldest of which goes back to 1891 (G. Eiffel's cylinder).

These collections are of interest to anyone looking for original documents which are no longer commercially available (the "Phonothèque" makes duplications). This is particularly the case for researchers (linguists, ethnologists, musicologists, etc.), publishers and radio stations.

Sound recording only goes back to 1877 and its products, which evolve very rapidly, are fragile. The lifespan of the most recent digitally coded recordings is not yet known. That is why other, technical research, deals with the de-

terioration of the signal and the material in order to prevent it and to restore old sound documents.

An analysis of the signal (the form of the waves, the state of the spectral condition, background noise, etc.) provides information on alterations to the recording. In order to read badly damaged originals, which cannot even take the weight of a needle for instance, special equipment is even built.

Visualising the acoustic phenomena (digital sonography), makes it possible to determine the electro-acoustic treatment appropriate to authentically restoring the work in relation to its chronology and the kind of way it should be listened to. It is thus essential to know each phase of the recording in order to respect all of its characteristics. For instance, the treatment of a degraded recording of the voice of Captain Dreyfus required historical research in order to pinpoint the date of the recording, measure the rate of his diction and

adjust the speed of rotation of the record being restored. In the case of musical recordings, this speed of rotation determines the height of the pitch.

Research in this field thus involves various specialists in sound processing: musicians, voice experts, psychophysicists, sound engineers and engravers, but also curators and collectors, historians, industrialists, etc.

When the means of regenerating the signal and its material have been chosen (filtering, removing bumps, mounting, reconstituting the form of degraded waves, etc.), the most appropriate kind of material for their duplication is sought.

In France, most of this research is carried out at the laboratory of Saint-Cyr-l'Ecole which combines teams from the French National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS), the "Acoustics and Mechanics Department" of the University of Paris VI, and the "Phonothèque" (Sound Library) — L'Actualité en France.

For some S. African children the fields are for killing

By Rich Mkhondo
Reuters

EDENDALE, South Africa — Six-year-old Zweluthu has a talent for drawing guns and other weapons.

At home one day he saw his father, mother and 12-year-old sister shot and hacked to death.

He spent two days alone with their decomposing bodies, sometimes crying, sometimes playing, sometimes trying to get them to wake up.

Since he was rescued, Zweluthu spends much of his time drawing the murder weapons — knives, spears, stones and slashing knives called pangas.

He is quite good at it. The subjects of his child's art are familiar.

Zweluthu is one of hundreds of children growing up in the "killing fields" of South Africa's Natal province, where a virtual civil war between opposing black political organisations has claimed 3,000 lives in the past six years.

In the child's neighbourhood of Edendale Valley, a person's manner of speech, colour of shirt or hairstyle can mark him as an enemy. He or she may be shot or stabbed to death for wandering in the wrong part of a street.

"Tomorrow you may hear that I am dead," the child's aunt, Margaret Skosana, now his guardian, told Reuters.

Tens of thousands of civilians have fled the rolling valleys of Edendale in recent months to escape fighting between the left-wing United Democratic Front (UDF), South Africa's biggest anti-apartheid coalition, and the conservative Zulu-based movement Inkatha.

The political power struggle has been complicated by criminal gangs using the chaos for personal gain. Thousands of men organised into heavily-armed warrior bands roam the townships and villages, killing, looting and burning.

Zweluthu's parents were among 80 people killed in five days of intensive warfare between March 26 and April 1.

The child survived only because crude fire bombs hurled into his home failed to explode.

"We found him crying and trying to revive his mother's decomposing body," Skosana said. She believes the bleak and

futureless environment in which black children in Natal and other parts of South Africa are fighting to survive is breeding a frightened — and frightening — generation.

Psychologists agree. Researchers and community leaders monitoring South Africa's culture of violence are alarmed at the disastrous consequences on black children.

Many live in fear. The emotions of others are being blunted, with youths losing respect for human life and becoming sucked into a whirlpool of lawlessness and internecine feuding.

Skosana's son Zondani, a 15-year-old "soldier," said he abandoned his education to defend his neighbourhood. He said he cannot stop fighting as long as his enemy, Inkatha, has not been defeated.

He says he cannot remember how many people he has killed, but has used his gun extensively to repel attacks.

"Everytime we go to combat, I think this could be it. I have seen many people killed and many hurt," he said.

"On one occasion, we came across the burning body of an attacker, killed by one of our groups. It was the worst experience of my life seeing this guy burn."

"I just felt cold. Each time I think of the incident, I just want to vomit. He was not totally burnt, and the fire was getting to his bones, which were turning to ash."

"The police arrived and we ran away. When the police come we run into the houses. They do not chase us because they are scared, there are lots of guns and they could get shot."

The UDF says police refuse to act against Inkatha and sometimes assist Inkatha members carrying out attacks.

Police deny any bias and say they are unable to build criminal cases because potential witnesses fearing reprisals will not testify.

Poverty, unemployment, overcrowding and lack of political rights are all cited as contributing to the Natal violence.

Although similar conditions prevail elsewhere, what distinguishes Natal is that it is where two powerful black factions meet.

Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha movement has long been a political force in Natal.

Paris, Bonn aim for EC union by 1993

PARIS (R) — France and West Germany said Thursday the European Community (EC) should seek political as well as economic union by 1993.

French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl made the proposal, in a letter to Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey.

Ireland currently holds the six-month revolving presidency of the 12-nation community and the two leaders said their foreign ministers would submit details to a Dublin meeting Saturday.

They suggested the political union timetable could be added to the agenda of an emergency summit in Dublin April 28.

Haughey called the meeting to assess the consequences of German unification for the EC.

"Given the profound changes in Europe, the establishment of an (EC) internal market and the realisation of economic and monetary union, we believe it is necessary to accelerate the political construction of the twelve," the letter said.

Kohl and Mitterrand formally called for development of "a common foreign and security policy" and set a single target

date for both monetary and political union.

"Our objective is that these fundamental reforms — economic and monetary union as well as political union — take effect on January 1, 1993, after ratification by national parliaments," their statement said.

The proposal, formally setting out what Haughey last week said was the prevailing view within the EC, appeared to mark the end of a rough passage in traditionally close Paris-Bonn ties.

Mitterrand seemed unprepared for the rush towards German unification unleashed by the opening of the Berlin Wall in November and was clearly taken aback by Kohl's preoccupation over the past few months with the destiny of Germany.

One French analyst, former president spokesman Michel Vasselle, said Thursday's joint call had "swept away the clouds" formed by France's fear that West Germany might abandon EC integration in favour of some pan-European goal.

In an interview with French television March 29, Kohl insisted that German unification would accelerate, not slow, the



Francoise Mitterrand



Helmut Kohl

process of EC integration, leading ultimately to what he termed "the construction of a united states of Europe."

But the Franco-German statement, released in Paris as Mitterrand flew for talks on the future of Europe with U.S. President George Bush, was likely to be shrouded off in Britain which reluctantly supports monetary union and considers political unity a pipe-dream.

At the Dublin summit, Kohl and Mitterrand will try to persuade British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to accept preparatory work for an "inter-governmental conference on political union," their statement said.

This would start in December and proceed along with an already agreed inter-governmental conference on monetary union.

The conference is required to approve amendments to the 1957 Treaty of Rome, the EC's founding charter.

France and West Germany, backed by a majority of the EC states, want the conference on monetary union to finish its work by mid-1991, a deadline they say must be met if the plan is to be ratified Jan. 1, 1993.

Thursday's statement made no reference to any deadline for the proposed conference on political union.

Farmers oppose proposals for free agricultural trade

GATT nears accord on ways to settle disputes

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico (R) — The days when it took trading nations more than 15 years to settle a dispute over pasta and nearly 10 years to settle one over citrus, may soon be over.

U.S. and other officials say the 30 senior ministers meeting here under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), an international trade body, may be ready by July with a new formula to settle disputes among GATT members.

It would ensure quick, iron-clad solutions to any complaints to unfair trade that GATT members may level against each other.

The ministers are at this Pacific resort for a three-day meeting to try to resolve disagreements in time for a self-imposed December deadline.

They also want to be able to put down some draft agreements at their next meeting in Geneva in July.

Sharp disputes remain over how to end export subsidies for agriculture and how to bring services such as banking and telecommunications under GATT regulations.

But one senior U.S. official said an agreement on settling disputes would be ready by July because no trade off was needed to reach it.

GATT members also realise that without setting up a solid settlement system, other agreements might be jeopardised.

When the European Community (EC) allegedly shipped illegally subsidised pasta to the United States in the 1970s, a GATT committee ruled the EC had violated the accepted global trading regulations.

But before the issue was resolved, the United States retaliated, and the EC counter-retaliated, and nearly 20 years

passed before the disagreement was laid to rest.

The same sort of story occurred with citrus, when the EC accorded preferential treatment to citrus fruit from North African nations, raising charges of unfair treatment for American citrus growers.

In the past, GATT approval of an unfair trade finding by one of its special panels had to be unanimous; of course the losing party in the dispute often vetoed the ruling.

In addition, losers often charged that the GATT officials weighing the case were prejudiced, or even incompetent.

Under new dispute settlement procedures being considered, GATT would call on outside experts to judge cases, and also institute an appeals process, with a time limit of perhaps a year on the entire ruling and appeal process.

The importance of a tough, new dispute settlement process was stressed by a senior Japanese official, who said that if there was no fair, assured way to settle charges that GATT's rules were being broken, the rules themselves would lose their importance as standards for world trade.

"I'm sure the negotiators are very mindful of the need for mechanisms to enforce the GATT rulings," he said.

Agriculture subsidies

Meanwhile, farmers from North America, Europe and Japan voiced opposition on Thursday to proposals to end trade-distorting subsidies to agriculture.

The United States and other major agricultural producers like Australia have advanced such proposals in the four-year Uruguay round of global negotiations

due to end in December.

But farmers' representatives said at a one-day symposium that while scrapping the subsidies might increase trade it would threaten production, the environment and rural life and family farms.

"We need to take a serious look at the potential effects of what is being proposed in the GATT agricultural negotiations before we embark on a global experiment to see if a free market in agriculture really works the way economists think it might," said an official of the U.S. National Farmers Union.

The official, union Vice-President Willis Eiken, said the present system, while not perfect, kept global starvation at bay.

Calls for a change in the rules came as the United States spent more and more to counter EC subsidies. The struggle between the two cost free-traders like Australia some of their export markets.

The EC, concerned about its large farming population, has mounted strong resistance to a complete phase-out of these subsidies, though it has said it would at least go along with some reduction of trade distortions.

A representative of Japan, under U.S. pressure to open up its domestic rice market, said: "I think that each country's efforts to secure a domestic supply of basic foodstuffs should be approved in the GATT agreement."

Mitsuo Horiuchi, president of Japan's Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, added: "It has been common for every country to maintain its basic foodstuffs through domestic self-supplies. We believe this principle should be clearly approved within the GATT framework in the future."

China steelmakers hope Soviet investment will soon return

BAOTOU, China (R) — Thirty years after Soviet experts left and the lights went out on China's short-lived love affair with its Communist neighbor, steelmakers in this bleak city hope Moscow's money and machinery will soon return.

Premier Li Peng's visit to Moscow from Monday is a sign of thawing relations between China and Soviet Union that may bring closer cooperation.

Li will be the most senior Chinese leader to visit Moscow since his adoptive father, the late Premier Chou Enlai, went in 1964.

Soviet technicians and funds helped build Baotou's vast iron and steel company in China's northern region of inner Mongolia in the 1950s but aid was halted in 1960 as relations collapsed between the two Communist states.

"We have orders to go home," the plant's General Manager Zhang Gaozhong recalled the Soviet experts as saying.

"They left in late 1960. They stopped supplies and broke their contracts... China had to repay the loans," said Zhang in an interview with Reuters this week.

Baotou's steelworks, now the fifth biggest in China, was one of 156 major projects built with Soviet aid in the early years after the Chinese Communists took power in 1949.

Belching red and black smoke, it still uses ageing Soviet machinery. In relations, the factory is negotiating with Moscow for modern Soviet technology and a large, cheap Soviet loan.

Li's visit is likely to give the talks a boost as well as produce agreements on economic cooperation and cutting troop levels along the still contested Sino-Soviet frontier.

Zhang said he expected Li's delegation to raise the Baotou issue and that a draft agreement on a Soviet loan, perhaps for 200 million Swiss francs (\$135 million), would be signed later this year.

A Chinese source said the low-interest loan was crucial to the outcome of the deal as China was suffering from the West's clampdown on lending since the crushing of the pro-democracy movement in Peking last June.

Employing 110,000 workers, the Baotou complex expects to produce 2.5 million tonnes of steel this year but quality is too poor for export.

"It would be convenient if we could cooperate with the Soviets. They know the machinery and are more familiar with our situation," said Zhang.

He dismissed the idea that Moscow's political reforms — seen by some Chinese leaders as betraying Communism — or the recent events in Eastern Europe would affect Sino-Soviet trade.

"Our principle is 'equality, mutual benefit, reciprocity'. We will do business on that basis if the price is right."

The Soviet Union was China's fifth largest trading partner in 1989 with business totalling over \$3 billion.

China swaps mainly light industrial products, textiles and food for Soviet machinery, aircraft and raw materials.

But according to the official China Daily Friday, trade in the first quarter this year at \$666 million was slightly down on the same 1988 period because of restrictions on Soviet exports.

Agreements on Chinese investments in the Soviet Union and Soviet investments in China totalled \$240 million last year, according to official Chinese figures.

A Soviet trade official in Peking said Li's visit to Moscow would include talks on changing the basis of Sino-Soviet trade from barter to hard currency by 1991.

Business could fall in the short term because of hard currency shortages on both sides. Anatoly Litvin predicted, but should benefit over the next five years.

China's first purchase of a Soviet nuclear power plant is also likely to be discussed during Li's four-day visit.

If and when Soviet experts return to Baotou, they will find times have changed since the 1950s.

Saudi Arabia, UAE reject Australian sheep

ABU DHABI (AP) — Authorities have rejected a consignment of Australian sheep without conducting veterinary checks because Saudi Arabia earlier rejected the animals, agriculture ministry officials reported Saturday.

The 17,700 sheep were among more than 46,000 head turned away by the Saudis at the Red Sea port of Jeddah April 7-8 because some were suffering from infectious mouth ulcers, the UAE officials said.

Saudi Arabia had made no public mention of the issue. But the Australian Meat and Livestock corporation reported it in Sydney earlier this week.

The developments indicated a renewal of a 1989 trade dispute which threatens Australia's lucrative livestock exports to the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia alone accounts for half the seven million sheep shipped by Australia every year.

As the ship carrying the latest consignment anchored at the UAE port of Rasid, a special committee of agricultural ministry officials and Dubai municipality representatives met Friday and decided not to accept the sheep, the officials said.

The UAE action indicated that Saudi Arabia's partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council was prepared to carry out a threat made last year to turn away any consignment that any of the alliance's six member states refuse to unload.

A ministry spokesman, who cannot be named under official regulations, said: "The decision was made in the light of the agreement among the GCC states coordinating such procedures and stating that any foodstuff consignment rejected by one member must be rejected by the others."

The GCC also includes Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. In last year's dispute, some GCC states were willing to receive part of the consignments rejected by Saudi Arabia, on the grounds that their veterinarians had cleared the sheep.

The Australians clamped a four-month ban on exports to Saudi Arabia after it turned away some 400,000 sheep last year, saying they were infected by viruses called bluetongue and sheep pox.

Reports from Sydney said that after Meat and Livestock corporation Chairman Dick Austin visited the Middle East last year, about a half-million sheep were exported to Saudi Arabia without problems.

But the decision to reject the sheep was made in the light of the agreement among the GCC states coordinating such procedures and stating that any foodstuff consignment rejected by one member must be rejected by the others."

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Mideast oil states plan petrochemical industry expansion

By Aly Mahmoud
The Associated Press

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia — Middle East oil producers are spending \$15 billion to expand petrochemical production, putting them in bitter competition with the European Community.

After decades of burning away the natural gas which is pumped up with crude oil, eight countries around the Gulf are harnessing gas as the raw material base for petrochemicals and as energy to run the production plants.

Middle East petrochemicals either will be exported, raw or processed into products including fertilisers, plastics, textiles, nylon, paints, insecticides, refrigerants, drugs and other products.

For Gulf petrochemical producers, gas costs 50 cents per thousand British thermal units (BTUS), compared with \$2.50 in Europe.

In addition, many Gulf refinery workers are low-paid foreigners, further enabling Gulf petrochemical products to compete in Western markets at prices European producers cannot match.

The move into petrochemicals has caused squabbling between the European Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. Two other Gulf oil giants, Iran and Iraq, are indirectly involved in the dispute.

At issue are tariffs up to 13.5 per cent set by the EC on petrochemical imports, a protective measure aimed at and resented by the Gulf exporters.

Negotiators for both sides recently met in Spain and Oman trying to ease strained relations caused by the tariff.

But discord remains, with the EC charging that Middle East countries are unfairly cashing in on "petrochemicals made cheaply" through subsidised gas and imported labour.

Arab officials say the GCC states might use oil for leverage in their struggle with the EC, which imports 40 per cent of its crude from the Gulf.

"Who will survive?" speculation points to the Gulf," said Bahrain's Information Minister Tariq Al-Muhammad.

"No one can stop any nation from having its legitimate share in international trade," he said.

"The EC tariff situation has had a minor effect on current GCC sales, but overall has not stifled growth in the industry," said one European diplomat, who refused to be identified.

Companies active in the European petrochemicals sector over the past two years have seen prices and profits boosted by strong demand, while supplies have been limited as the industry operates at 90 per cent capacity.

Those market gains, however, are now threatened by new production capacity and slower economic growth in Europe, said London-based chemicals analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton Securities.

Prices forced down by Gulf competition could hurt the established European petrochemical industry, said the analysts, who declined to be quoted by name.

The Gulf countries sit on 28 per cent of the world's natural gas reserves, some 31.1 billion cubic metres, and the GCC countries draw on them for 90 per cent of their petrochemical energy and feedstock.

Arab industry analysts say the Gulf region is one of the most suitable in the world for petrochemicals production.

"The accusation of subsidy in our gas industry is wrong," says Bahrain's undersecretary for industry and development, Sheikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa. He said the cost of production and transportation is passed on to the producers.

The GCC countries jointly manufacture more than 11 million tonnes of petrochemicals and fertilisers annually. Europe has been buying a quarter of the GCC's production which amounts to only 5 per cent of EC consumption.

U.S. embassy specialists in Saudi Arabia say the Saudis have plans to increase their capacity by at least 50 per cent at a cost of \$4 billion.

The Saudi Arabia Basic Industries Corp. already has 15 petrochemical plants in the industrial centres of Yanbu on the Red Sea and Jubail on the Gulf.

Kuwait has a \$2-billion project to step into ethylene-based petrochemical products by 1995.

Qatar, sitting on one of the world's largest gas fields, already is a major petrochemical producer and the Qatar Petrochemical Co. plans a new, export-oriented, 450,000-tonne-a-year ethylene and polyethylene plant at a cost of \$1.5 billion.

Iran plans four new plants with an investment of \$4 billion over five years, while working to reopen the seven that were battered during the war with Iraq.

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Iraq is building a second petrochemical complex, at a cost of \$2.5 billion, eventually to produce 1.5 million tonnes annually of 21 petrochemical items. The complex, its first ethylene-based industry, opened early this year.

The Bahrain-based Gulf Petrochemicals Industries Co. owned equally by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, has a \$100-million urea plant under consideration, expanding the existing unit that produces 330,000 tonnes of ammonia each year.

Banages, the Bahrain Natural Gas Co., is projecting use of its propane and butane to produce polypropylene.

The United Arab Emirates, already a fertiliser producer, is developing new plants. Oman is considering a novel scheme involving a floating methanol plant.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Envisioning confusion today and applying a fresh approach to some of the situations that are confronting you at present, will pay big dividends in the immediate future.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Get in touch with outside associates and find out how they feel your mutual goals can be met in the most efficient and understanding fashion.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Whatever your activities you now should be able to get those who have expertise in such directions to lead you a truly helping hand for a big success.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can easily contact those persons with whom you wish to have a good time and to get them to go along with any course that will bring joint happiness to all concerned.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you can do to make your dwelling more attractive and charming now should produce only the best results so do something positive.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Contact those persons with whom you want association to be on the highest and the congenial level and then know your leading towards them.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Your financial and other practical relations with others can be improved now by going into your various mutual interests with frankness.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You are loaded with charm and good will and should make a special point to express it to all with whom you come in contact, gain greater popularity.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) This is the day to let your one and only know how devoted you are and to be very romantic in binding yourselves to another family.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Friends, friends, friends should be the media by which you and your hopes and wishes are most easily made a part of your everyday orbit.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) A day to let whatever persons of prominence or influence with whom you have association know of your admiration for them and slip in some favour you seek.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) You like to make changes and to be a part of the new and the artistic or beautiful and now is the time when this is attained with ease.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Any discussions with business persons would now show you how you will be able to add to your assets and to lessen your liabilities so consult experts.

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Rogers

ACROSS

- Store away
- S.A. native
- Plunged
- Fountain
- Town near Madrid
- Abolish
- Stable food
- Imp
- Sea light
- Certain horses
- Split
- Gorge
- Pentacle
- "The — of kings"
- Inventor Howe
- Commercial
- Large wasp
- "Take — from me"
- Discipline
- Woe is me!
- Recount
- Disconcert
- Enrol
- Aura
- Mortified
- Sooner than
- Declared strongly
- Wear away
- Check
- Young salmon
- Inc
- Dreadings
- Medicinal
- Some hills
- London
- Family name
- Eye's place
- Location by horse
- Where horses graze
- Speech
- Tejil
- Amphibian
- Scoff
- Straw beehive

DOWN

- Jan
- Lacerte
- Pronghorn
- Oaters
- Midshipman
- Unwilling
- Brinks
- UN gp.
- Racehorses
- Donkeys for one
- God of war
- Uprose
- Some hills
- London
- Family name
- Eye's place
- Location by horse
- Where horses graze
- Speech
- Tejil
- Amphibian
- Scoff

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Results of baseball games played Friday, April 20, 1990

T-BALL DIVISION

Ishtiklal, Jordan Express, Aqaba Shipping, Nashashibi-Ebbini and Data Mini played with much enthusiasm in the Everyone's A Winner T-Ball division.

COACH PITCH DIVISION

National Steel Ind.	17	Arab Finance Corp.	10
Aramex	11	Intercontinental	8
AICI	20	Comcent	15
Epson	26	Pirelli	2

KID PITCH DIVISION

Jordan Worsted Mills	1	NECC	8
Danish Dairy	10	Westinghouse	4
Marriott	8	Mr. Chips	4

SOFTBALL DIVISION

Second Time Around	5	Qaddoumi	4
NADAS	11	Volvo	9



Action at third base, but the runner was safe.



Baseball Commissioner Maher Khalifeh (with hat) and committee member Tim Miller take a pause during Friday's full schedule of games.



Umpire George Conklin leaves no doubt about a called strike.

Densimo predicts win in London Marathon

LONDON (R) — Belayneh Densimo, who upstaged the London Marathon two years ago with a world best in Rotterdam on the same day, predicts he will win the 10th running of the race here Sunday.

The Ethiopian was cautious about the chances of improving his world mark of two hours six minutes 50 seconds in his London debut.

But he was confident he would win the 42.195-kilometre race, the world's largest mass-participation marathon with 34,000 entrants this year.

"I am not familiar with the course so we shall have to wait and see," he said when asked about the possibility of a world best.

"All I can say is that I am confident I can win. But one day I will improve the record."

Densimo won the 1986 Moscow Goodwill Games marathon but was not selected for the 1987 Rome World Championships and missed the chance of an Olympic title when Ethiopia boycotted the 1988 Seoul games.

He set his world mark in the 1988 Rotterdam Marathon on the same day as the London event and won again in the Dutch season last year.

With Olympic champions Gelindo Bordin of Italy and Rosa Mota of Portugal opting to run in last Monday's Boston Marathon, the London field looks short of quality.

Last year's winner, the world and Commonwealth champion Douglas Wakiburi, will not run Sunday because of a lingering hamstring strain and Densimo's main opponent could be his compatriot Dereje Nedi, runner-up in the 1989 World Cup.

Australian downs Cash

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Alex Antonitsch of Austria captured the Kal Cup Korean open tennis singles championship Saturday by downing former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash of Australia 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

Antonitsch, who was the 27th seed, took home \$20,160 of the total \$140,000 prize in the tournament that began Monday at Seoul's Olympic tennis courts after two days of qualifying rounds.

From the start of Saturday's final match, Antonitsch, 24, kept Cash off balance by returning powerful services easily and drilling passing shots. Cash, who has been in a slump because of injuries, tried to rally with quick net plays.

Cash, who registered late and was not given a seed ranking, showed increased fatigue and made unforced mistakes after losing the first set 6-7, (2-7) in a tie-breaker.

Glenn Bloom of Israel and 1989 Kal Cup winner Dan Goldie of the United States split \$14,000.

Bloom lost to Cash in the semifinals Friday. Antonitsch, who narrowly beat the American semifinalist 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-0), attributed his victory to cheers of Korean fans, and recalled he was eliminated in the first round of the 1988 Olympic Tennis event in Seoul.

In the tournament's main round, 32 players competed, with top-seeded Wally Masur of Australia losing on the second day.

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Farid Shawqi, Suhair Ramzi, Farouq Al Fishawi in THE SERVANT (Arabic)

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Walesa re-elected Solidarity leader

GDANSK, Poland (Agencies) — Lech Walesa, who guided the Solidarity movement from a strikebound shipyard to an East Bloc revolution, won re-election as union chairman during Solidarity's second national congress Saturday, preliminary results showed.

Walesa received more than 77 per cent of the vote, according to unofficial returns from the union election commission.

Walesa, a veteran activist and a little-known local strike leader as delegates selected a leader to shape the historic union's role in post-Communist Poland.

Walesa himself proposed the candidacy of Andrzej Slowik, a Lodz bus driver who has often advocated a more militant course than the Solidarity leadership.

The other candidate nominated as the congress started its third day was Tomasz Wojcik, a chemist active during 1988 strikes in the Wroclaw region of southwest Poland.

Walesa, who has led Solidarity since leaving a fence to take charge of a Gdansk shipyard strike in 1980, won an overwhelming vote of confidence Friday.

Internal union tensions, including charges that Walesa's methods are undemocratic, surfaced during debates. But the former electrician's masterful and charismatic leadership seemed to have reined in dissent, and none of Solidarity's best-known activists sought the post.

Addressing delegates Saturday, the candidates tackled a key question for Solidarity's future — whether it should be simply a trade union, or continue to play a

wider political role in the new Poland.

Walesa called for Solidarity to be "more and more directed onto union paths" but added that "at the same time it should allow our state and our homeland to reform."

Slowik, however, said delegates should "leave this congress convinced that we are the leadership of the trade union, not a social movement or political party."

Slowik, a known Solidarity figure although not in Walesa's closest circle, was a Communist Party member until he led municipal transport strikes during Solidarity's first months in 1980.

Like thousands from Solidarity, he was imprisoned after the martial-law crackdown in December 1981.

Only about 2.2 million of the 10 million Solidarity members the union claimed in 1981 have joined the union since it won back its legal status on April 17, 1989, after a seven-year ban as a result of a historic agreement with Communist authorities.

Earlier, the congress voted to admit as guests all members of the 1981 union leadership who were no longer delegates.

The union is expected to clarify its attitude to the Solidarity-led government's radical economic austerity plan that has already left more than 200,000 workers with-



Lech Walesa

out jobs.

The independent movement is likely to try to define its political role in post-Communist Poland as well.

Solidarity-backed candidates swept partially free elections to parliament nearly a year ago.

Walesa later engineered the coalition that installed Solidarity adviser Tadeusz Mazowiecki as the East Bloc's first non-Communist head of government.

Mazowiecki attended the opening session of the congress on Thursday as a guest.

During debate Friday, delegates rejected a notion to create the post of vice-chairman as inconsistent with union statutes.

The vice-chairman would have been able to take over if the chairman assumed other duties such as president of the country.

But the proposal could still be adopted if the delegates decided to change the statutes.

Walesa told the union for the first time Saturday of his plans to run for Poland's presidency.

Addressing the union's national congress, he refused to rule out a bid for president in the next two years and joked about his plans to invite Solidarity members to the presidential palace in Warsaw.

Romania's Hungarians hold poll talks amid tension

ORADEA, Romania (R) — Romanian police patrolled the Transylvanian town of Oradea Saturday as an opposition party promoting the rights of the Hungarian minority opened an electoral meeting amid ethnic tension.

More than 300 delegates gathered for the two-day congress of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania (HDUR) to elect party leaders for the May 20 elections, Romania's first free vote in half a century.

The elections were possible after Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled and executed during an uprising last December.

The northwest region of Transylvania, which borders Hungary, is home to most of Romania's 2.3 million Hungarians, one of the largest ethnic minorities in Europe.

Four people died in fierce ethnic clashes last month after Romanians attacked an HDUR office in a backlash protest against Hungarian claims for greater linguistic and cultural rights, which were severely curbed under Ceausescu.

Despite fears of renewed unrest, Oradea, a picturesque frontier town of 200,000 people — a third of them Hungarians — was quiet as the conference began.

But large numbers of police were patrolling the sunny streets of the city, which is perched on the banks of the River Cris on the edge of the Panonian Plain.

HDUR Chairman Geza Domokos, opening the meeting under the slogan "a home in our homeland" and "the future lies in unity," thanked "the people outside on the streets who are taking care of our security."

The HDUR claims 650,000 members, and the congress is attended by prominent Romanian Hungarians, including Pastor Laszlo Tokes, whose persecution by the secret police sparked protests which led to the December uprising.

Karel Kiraly, an ethnic Hungarian serving as vice-president of Romania's provisional parliament and a member of the present HDUR leadership, was also expected to speak.

Kiraly is caught up in tension between Hungary and Romania, which accused Budapest Friday of having a high-level informer inside the Romanian government.

The unnamed informer passed on information about the alleged tapping of phones belonging to members of the Hungarian minority, a Romanian official said.

Pope arrives in Czechoslovakia

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Pope John Paul II arrived Saturday in Czechoslovakia to pay tribute to a country and a church emerging from what he called the "tragic utopia" of four decades of Communist rule.

The Pontiff, 90-year-old Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek and clasped hands with dissident-turned-President Vaclav Havel as he arrived at Prague's Ruzyně Airport, which was packed with well-wishers.

Tomasek spent four years in the 1950s doing forced labour for his defence of the church. When the aged cardinal tried to kiss the Pope's ring, John Paul stopped him, and kissed him instead.

Making his first visit to a Warsaw Pact country except for his native Poland, Pope John Paul was expected to draw millions of

pilgrims during the two-day tour.

"I dare say... I am participating in a miracle," Havel said in welcoming remarks. "A man who six months ago was a prisoner and an enemy of his own state is welcoming the first Pope ever to visit."

The messenger of love comes into a country devastated by the ideology of hatred. The living symbol of civilisation comes into a country devastated by the rule of the uncivilised. For long decades the spirit has been chased out of our homeland. I have the honour to be a witness to the moment when the soil is being kissed by the apostle of spirituality."

The Polish-born Pope, speaking alternately in Czech and Slovak, stressed that he had come to strengthen the faithful emerging from the Communist epoch.

The Communist authorities had sought for decades to repress religion, the Pope said. But their rule revealed itself as "a tragic utopia, because certain essential dimensions of the human person were disregarded and denied," he said.

The Pope was heading Sunday to Velehrad, a pilgrimage site, before winding up the visit in Bratislava, the Slovak capital.

Until Czechoslovakia's Communist government fell, a papal trip was impossible. John Paul had hoped to visit the country for a major religious celebration in 1985 but was refused permission.

The unusually short and hastily arranged visit will fulfill a request by Havel, a playwright who battled for civil rights and was jailed by the previous hard-line Communist regime.

Greek parliament sworn in

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Deputies elected in national elections earlier this month were sworn-in Saturday as conservative Premier Constantine Mitsotakis prepared to seek a vote of confidence from parliament.

Mitsotakis' New Democracy Party won 150 of the 300-seats in the unicameral parliament, one short of the necessary majority needed to govern. But he managed to obtain the support of the lone victorious deputy from the ruling Democratic Renewal Group for the one-seat majority.

The April 8 elections gave Mitsotakis his long sought after victory in his fourth attempt. He led

the conservatives in elections in June 1985 and in the inconclusive June and November vote of last year.

The 72-year-old Mitsotakis is scheduled to present his administration's domestic and foreign policy programme to parliament for three days of debate starting Tuesday. The discussion ends midnight Thursday followed by the vote of confidence.

Shortly after the vote in parliament, Mitsotakis leaves for Dublin to attend a two-day European Community summit meeting. He returns on April 29 to tackle a \$15-billion domestic deficit, a \$22-billion external debt and in-

flation running at 18 per cent.

The new parliament which has a four-year mandate, meets Sunday to elect a house speaker. Athanasios Tsaldaris, a New Democracy deputy, was favoured to win over three other candidates for the prestigious post.

In addition to the conservatives and the lone Democratic Renewal Deputy, the chamber includes 123 members of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement, 19 from the Communist-led Coalition of the Left and Progress, four independent, two members of the Greek-Muslim community in northeastern Greece and one environmentalist.

Genetic link found in AIDS effects

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Researchers say they have isolated a genetic factor that might explain why some people become sick soon after contracting the AIDS virus and others have serious illness for years.

In a study of 5,000 infected men from the U.S. cities of Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Pittsburgh, those with a particular genetic pattern tended to decline more rapidly after exposure to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) than those without the combination.

"The key finding is that there may be genetic differences that you inherit that once you're infected with HIV, it increases your vulnerability to develop severe diseases," Dr. Charles Rinaldo Jr., an assistant professor of pathology at the University of Pittsburgh, said Friday.

The results eventually could help doctors determine what medicine, if any, should be given to people who test positive for HIV.

But Dr. Jeffrey Laurence, a researcher at the Cornell Medical Centre at New York Hospital, noted that links between HIV exposure and genetics have been

examined previously, only to have their medical applications questioned.

"People for years have been trying to find an association... and with so many conflicting results," Laurence said. "I've heard of these associations before, but they were never strong enough to help you clinically."

Most researchers believe everyone who contracts HIV eventually gets AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, a disease that robs patients of the ability to fight disease.

But researchers also have long suspected that "co-factors" outside of HIV exposure help determine the course of the disease. Genetics and viruses are the main suspects.

"It has been a point of considerable interest because the effects of AIDS differ so widely," said Dr. June Osborn of the National Commission on AIDS.

"HIV is a necessary agent, but it may not be a sufficient cause to develop the full-blown disease," Rinaldo said. "Those individuals with these co-factors may get the disease more readily."

From their original pool of 5,000 men, researchers from the

University of Pittsburgh and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases chose 108 white men who were HIV-positive, had high levels of T4 cells and were free of AIDS symptoms.

T4 cells, the main targets of the HIV, generate a human's immune response. As time passed, the researchers again split the pool, grouping the 49 with rapid immune system decline and the 59 who remained in relatively good health.

In 49 whose health had declined, 20 per cent had a combination of four particular antigens, which provoke an immune system response.

"There was a significant difference compared with those whose immune status had remained stable," Rinaldo said.

Isolating the genetic similarity in only 20 per cent of the AIDS victims of that group probably indicates other co-factors are involved, Rinaldo said.

Some researchers, however, remained sceptical. "It's just another little piece of a very complex story," said Cornell's Laurence. "Can you ever predict who's going to go on and develop a disease that's going to be fatal?"

Chinese official seeks action against sabotage

LONDON (R) — A senior official in Xinjiang has demanded action against "apostate and sabotage activities" after reports this month of ethnic violence in China's sensitive northwest frontier region.

The speech by Xinjiang Chairman Tomur Dawamat, broadcast on Xinjiang television Thursday night and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said outside forces should be prohibited from meddling in religious problems in the area.

He said taking advantage of religion to create disturbances and promote factionalism should be opposed.

Dawamat's speech did not refer directly to unrest reported earlier this month near the ancient Silk Road city of Kashgar when about 50 people, mostly Muslims of the ethnic Kirghiz minority, were said to have

been killed in clashes with security forces.

Xinjiang, which borders Mongolia, the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, is China's strategic gateway to the West.

Foreigners are barred from the area where the unrest was said to have occurred and China's official media have not reported any unrest.

Accounts about the violence earlier this month have varied, with some saying it was over the introduction of new identity cards and others maintaining it centred on religious restrictions.

On April 12, the Xinjiang daily said a school run by Muslim clerics in Xinjiang and set up without permission had been closed by authorities.

Two other clerics were stripped of their duties for "illegal religious activities."

Opposition steps up anti-Roh campaign

SEOUL (AP) — Opposition leader Kim Dae-jung urged President Roh Tae-woo Saturday to disband his governing party or face a national vote of confidence.

During a street rally in the central provincial city of Taejeon, Kim drew wild cheers from tens of thousands of supporters when he accused Roh of backpedaling from his promised reforms.

Kim demanded Roh immediately dismantle the current giant ruling party formed in January through a merger of Roh's governing party and two opposition groups.

"The three-party merger proved to be a complete failure, with President Roh's popularity rapidly waning," Kim said. He demanded Roh act to avert a national crisis stemming from his misrule, release political prisoners and step up democratic reforms.

Otherwise, Kim said, a referendum must be held this fall to determine if the people support Roh's regime. Kim also said Roh should resign if he is defeated.

Kim's aides said about 100,000 supporters attended the peaceful rally. Police put the number at 20,000.

In Kim's southern hometown of Kwangju, police fired tear gas to disperse about 300 students trying to attack a ruling party office with firebombs and rocks. No damage or injuries were reported.

Yonhap, the South Korean News Agency, said the students in Kwangju shouted "let's expel U.S. imperialists" and "punish Roh Tae-woo."

In Seoul, about 2,000 dissidents and radical students gathered at Yonsei University to launch an anti-Roh campaign.

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — A son of Yugoslav strongman Josip Broz Tito has stepped into politics to defend the struggling Communist cause of his late father.

Aleksandar Misa Broz, 48, is running for a seat in the first free elections in the Republic of Croatia Sunday from which the Communists could emerge as the big losers.

Broz, an oil executive, wants to give a helping hand to his father's embattled party whose authority has been eroded by a split over reform, growing nationalism and a grave economic crisis.

"After being a member of the Communist Party for 30 years, I feel a certain obligation to help it overcome the crisis at this critical moment," Broz said.

The Communists are running against the centre-right, nine-party coalition of People's Accord and the nationalist Croatian Democratic Union.

All the parties want more independence for Yugoslavia's eight re-

publics and provinces and some favour secession for Croatia.

Broz, the younger of Tito's two sons, is running in a constituency on the northern Adriatic island of Losinj.

He feels the Communists can buck the trend set in most other Eastern European countries by triumphing Sunday — and he is unimpressed by the claims of the opposition.

"Otherwise I wouldn't run. Opposition parties offer no real programmes. We (the Communists) have made mistakes, but we now know how to correct them, and we will do so," Broz told Reuters.

He opposes the idea of secession for Croatia, the country's second biggest republic and one of its most westernised regions.

"We can afford not to talk to each other in the party, but not in the country. It is not the same thing," he said.

Broz, a suave executive for Yugoslavia's biggest oil con-

glomerate who shares Tito's taste for Havana cigars, says his father should be seen as a product of his time.

Tito ruled Yugoslavia with an iron grip from 1945 to 1980 after leading the wartime anti-fascist resistance and he was lionised in his lifetime.

But his foreign and internal policies have been sharply criticised since he died on May 4, 1980.

Some Yugoslavs blame him for the country's current ills. Newspapers have recently accused him of ordering the brutal treatment of pro-Serbian Communists in concentration camps after the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia split in 1948.

Broz said Tito would not understand today's Yugoslavia which is moving over to a multi-party democracy.

"After all he was a product of a Bolshevik system and not an advocate of a true democracy," he said.

But he denied his father should be blamed for creating a political system in which top posts are regularly rotated preventing individuals establishing power bases.

"I do not mean to say that Tito was a flawless man on the contrary. But I'm neither for the glorification nor the negation of the personality at all costs," he said.

The time when one man could impose his will on all others had gone forever, he said.

"I can't do that even with my own two children. True, my son is pasting Communist election posters all over Zagreb but not because he's a genuine activist, but because he's getting paid for it," he said.

Broz said he had no immediate plans to make a full-time political career.

"At least for the time being I am doing it just on a voluntary basis. I've been working in the economy all my life and want to stay there."

Tito's son takes up struggling cause of Communists

Computer finds Shakespeare's works were all his own

LOS ANGELES (R) — A computer that was fed more than three million words by William Shakespeare and other Elizabethan authors has shown the bard alone wrote his works, a California University professor said Friday.

In addition the computer may have found eight poems previously attributed to Shakespeare that were penned by the great English playwright and poet.

"We are on the verge of a tremendous find — the possibility of confirming eight new short Shakespeare poems," Professor Ward Elliott told Reuters in an interview.

He said the computer, at Claremont McKenna College just outside Los Angeles, had been fed with the largest collection of Elizabethan and Jacobean texts ever put into a computer.

"We've got the King James Bible, every poem written by Shakespeare and material from 30 or so claimants (to Shakespeare's works)," Elliott said.

The computer programme, devised by Rob Valenza, professor of computer sciences at Claremont McKenna, runs a battery of eight tests on every word. The main test, known as modal analysis or the Valenza test, looks for interrelationships between words.

"Using this test alone Professor Valenza discovered tremendous consistency within Shakespeare, and tremendous powers of discrimination between Shakespeare and others," Elliott said, adding it had been powerful enough to eliminate all but two or three of the claimants.

Those authors who did pass the Valenza test were subjected to seven more tests looking for word frequency, words used to begin lines, metrical ways of ending lines, whether the line was punctuated at the end, relative clauses, compound words, hyphenated compound words, and frequency of exclamation marks.

These were then compared to Shakespeare's characteristics. The top claimants tested were the Earl of Oxford, Francis Bacon, Christopher Marlowe, Sir Edward Dyer, Queen Elizabeth and Sir Walter Raleigh.

The results so far, Elliott said, point against the claims of almost all of the major claimants.

"Bacon, Oxford and Marlowe come out in Timbuktu... Queen Elizabeth flunks five or six of the secondary tests, so she's out, no

matter how attractive a claimant she might have been, but Raleigh only fails two tests, so there's more work to be done on him," Elliott said.

"There's also a non claimant, Fulke Greville, who came out very close to Shakespeare on the Valenza test, so we've got to run him through some of the other tests," he added.

The computer also poured cold water on three recent claimed discoveries of Shakespearean poems — "Shall I die," discovered in 1985 by Gary Taylor, editor of the Oxford Shakespeare Series; "As this is Endless," discovered by Shakespearean scholar David Levy in 1988, and "Elegy, by W.S.," heavily promoted last year as one of Shakespeare's work by Donald Foster of Vassar College.

The most exciting find, he said,

same when the computer was fed the Passionate Pilgrims, a collection of 20 poems which first appeared in 1599.

Although the collection bears the signature "W. Shakespeare," only five of the poems are attributed to him in the book, and four are attributed to other poets. The other 11 are unattributed and most experts are doubtful they were written by the bard.

The first three unattributed poems fed into the computer "Came out in Timbuktu," Elliott said. "Then we ran the other eight... and they were beautifully Shakespearean... it's a potential Shakespeare find if it's confirmed by the other tests," he added.

Elliott said he was not claiming the results were conclusive, but hoped the work at Claremont McKenna would inspire interest by scholars in the field.

Street children to hold convention in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) — "No kid really loves the streets. But out there, there's drugs and friends... and you might find some of the warmth you couldn't get at home," said Jorge Rodriguez, a typical South American street urchin.

Rodriguez, 18, who ran away from his Buenos Aires home when he was eight, will be a leading figure at a week-long convention for street children from 17 Latin American countries due to start Monday in the Argentine capital.

The delegates represent private groups that try to help the countless impoverished children of Latin America, where 2,000 infants die every day of hunger, according to U.N. figures.

About 130 teenagers will discuss their life-style and how their aid groups work. They will also draw up a charter on the rights of street kids.

"The idea is to let the children themselves have a hand in shaping their future," said Alberto Morlachetti, head of the Argentine Pelota de Trapo (Rag Ball) group, which helps poor children in the southern suburbs of Buenos Aires.

Children in many countries have no alternative to begging or scraping a meagre existence from shoe-shining or selling sweets. Citing International Labour Organisation (ILO) figures, Morlachetti said children provide nearly a third of poor families' income in the region.

"They're not just kids, they're brave survivors. They've gone hungry since the time they were in their mother's womb. They were isolated because they're poor and they've lacked justice because they're minors and aren't allowed to speak for themselves," said Morlachetti.

A Swedish aid organisation, Radda Barnen (Save our Children), which has backed some of the Latin American groups, is paying for most of the delegates' transport costs.

The street kids' organisations want to provide an option to the gangs many poor youths turn to when they flee from broken homes, abusive parents or the burden of coping with adult-sized problems, delegates said.

The Peruvian Street Kids' Movement, Manthoc, was founded by Roman Catholic youths in 1978 and run by the children themselves for the past four years.

"In Manthoc I met other children with my same problems. I learned to appreciate my work and to teach others to organise themselves," said Cecilia Ramirez, a leader of the movement, who started selling herbal tea in a Lima shantytown at the age of six.

Some groups provide homes for street kids. Others can only afford day centres while others have job-training programmes where children learn skills to help them make a living.

Mop-haired Rodriguez, who lived three years in a Pelota de Trapo home, said street children faced other problems when trying to stay on the straight and narrow.

"If you lack good references or proper identification papers, there's no way you'll get a job. So most kids figure it's easier to beg, or steal if you're strong enough," he said.

Column

New York becomes U.S. robbery capital

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City has become the robbery capital of the United States, far outdistancing Detroit, which previously led the nation, according to FBI figures compiled by the police department. New York's rate of robberies in 1989 was 1,271 for every 100,000 in population, police said Friday. Detroit's figure was 1,095 and Washington, D.C., came in third with 1,055. The total number of robberies in New York last year amounted to 93,377, or one every six minutes, an increase of nearly 8 per cent over the previous year. Not surprisingly, the number of people who want guns, bulletproof vests and bodyguards also increased, officials said. Rounding out the top 10 U.S. cities in per-capita robberies were Baltimore, 1,043; New Orleans, 1,013; Boston, 1,011; Dallas, 928; Los Angeles, 913; Cleveland, 743, and San Francisco, 664. To compile the rankings, the police department used preliminary figures for 1989 released by the FBI three weeks ago. The FBI's final, official figures are due in August. In other major crime categories, Washington was first in murder, and New York, after the greatest number of slayings in its history, was ninth on a per capita basis, police said.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — A Swedish gas station chain is introducing a robot pump that fills the tank while the driver sits in the car, a company official said Friday. The robot's moveable arm is guided by the fuel tank by a radar signal that reacts to a reflector on the tank's cap, said Per Soderberg of the OK Gas Company. It is activated by a plastic credit card. "It only takes 90 seconds to fill up 50 litres, compared with about three and a half minutes when the driver has to get out of the car, open the tank, fill up, and return to the driver's seat," he said.

SCHOOL INVITES BACK BOY WITH AIDS

CHICAGO (R) — A 5-year-old boy banned from Sunday school because he had AIDS was invited back by the church pastor following a wave of public indignation and pressure. Dr. Erwin Lutzer, pastor of the Moody Church that operates the school, told reporters at a hastily called news conference that parents of other children who had raised objections to the boy could decide whether to withhold their own children. He said the boy was kept out of at least one Sunday school session to appease those parents who worried about their children sharing toys and playing with the AIDS-infected boy.

Table fountain fetches \$1.98m